

FINAL FEELING



Maria Sharapova, of Russia, celebrates her 3-6, 6-0, 6-2 win against Andrea Petkovic at the Sony Ericsson Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Fla., Thursday, March 31, 2011.

See Aruba Today Sports

U.S. unlikely to give arms to Libyans



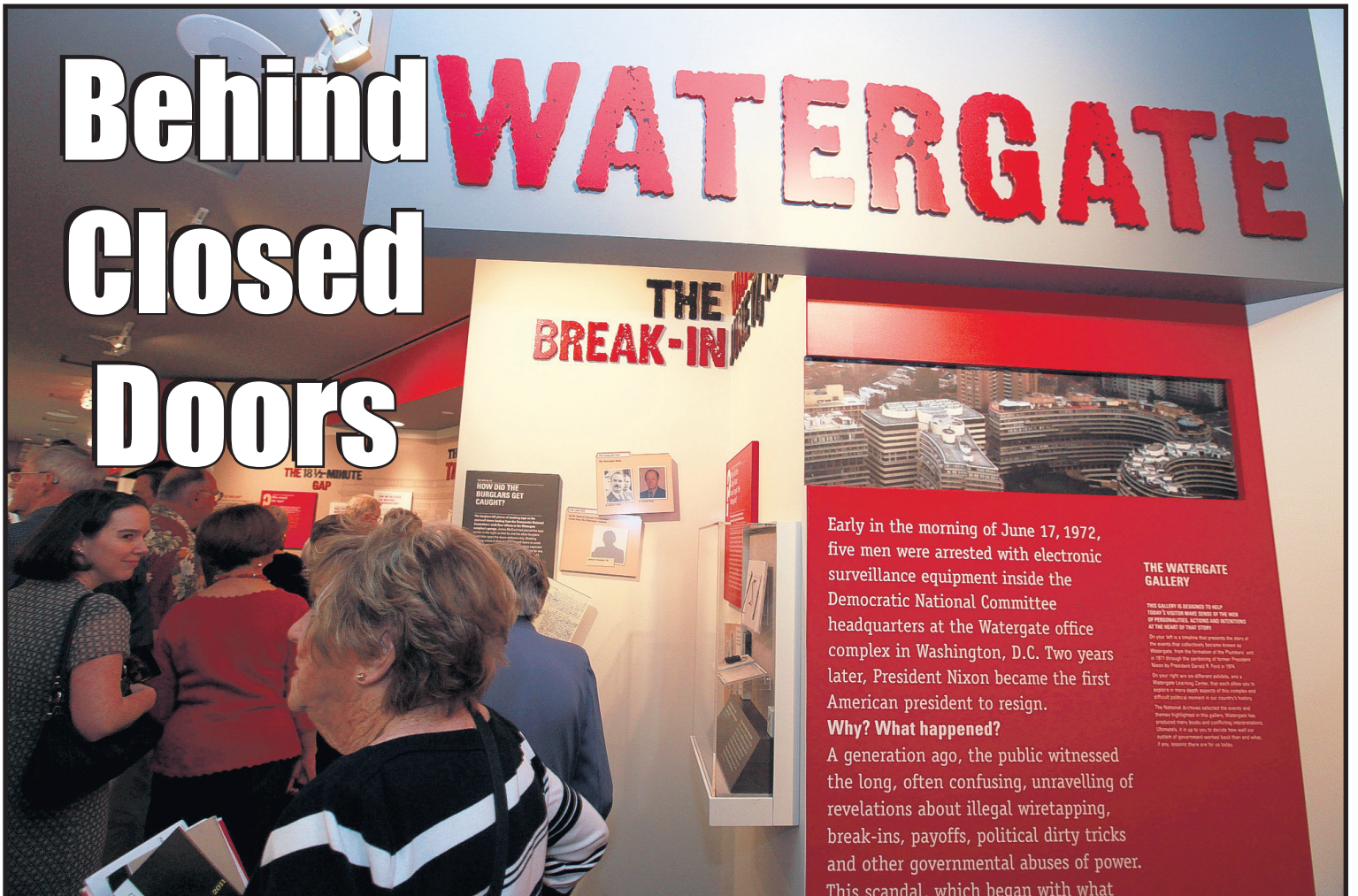
By E. BUMILLER

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WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's top two national security officials signaled Thursday that the United States was unlikely to arm the Libyan rebels, raising the possibility that the French alone among the Western allies would provide weapons and training for the poorly organized forces fighting Moammar Gadhafi's regime. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates made his views known for the first time in a marathon day of testimony to members of Congress.

Continued on Next Page

Behind Closed Doors



People view a display at the Watergate exhibit at the Nixon Presidential Library & Museum in Yorba Linda, Calif., March 31, 2011. The long-delayed and much-disputed Watergate exhibit opened Thursday at the library, bringing to a climax a fight between admirers of the former president and archivists who have been pushing for an honest and tough accounting of the scandal that led to former President Richard Nixon's downfall.

(Monica Almeida/The New York Times)

Nixon Library opens door prefer left closed

By ADAM NAGOURNEY

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YORBA LINDA, Calif. — Most presidential libraries

are as much celebrations of a president as historical reposi-

tories. They are packed with official papers, photographs, limousines, proclamations and baby shoes representing the president's life and times; dark chapters are traditionally ignored or at least understated.

That tradition was exploded Thursday as the Watergate Gallery opened here at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum. The unveiling ended a nearly year-long struggle between national archivists and the Richard Nixon Foundation, a group of Nixon loyalists who controlled the former president's papers until ceding them to the National Archives four years ago.

The fight was over how to

portray the scandal that led to Nixon's resignation. □



Sharon Fawcett, assistant archivist for Presidential Libraries, Tim Naftali, curator of the Watergate Gallery and David Ferriero, archivist of the United States conduct a ceremonial ribbon cutting to open the Watergate exhibit at the Nixon Presidential Library & Museum in Yorba Linda, Calif., March 31, 2011.

(The New York Times)

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U.S. ARMS LYBIA

Continued from front Page

He said the United States should stick to offering communications, surveillance and other support but suggested that the administration had no problem with other countries sending weapons to help the rebels, who in recent days have been retreating under attack from pro-Gadhafi forces. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who pushed the president to intervene in Libya, was described by an administration official Thursday as supremely cautious about arming the rebels "because of the unknowns" about who they were and whether they might have links to al-Qaida.

Earlier Thursday, the secretary general of NATO, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, told reporters in Stockholm that he believed that the U.N. Security Council resolution authorizing the air campaign in Libya did not even permit individual countries to arm the rebels. But there was considerable

disagreement within the military alliance, including from the United States, which has taken the position that the resolution does allow arming them.

In Libya, as the opposition forces began a cautious regrouping after a panicked retreat Wednesday, an atmosphere of paranoia descended on the capital, Tripoli, after the defection of the foreign minister, Moussa Koussa. Fears that the government could be cracking were deepened further when a second top Libyan official, Ali Abdussalam el-Treki, defected Thursday to Egypt.

In Washington, the unified position of Gates and Clinton appeared to dull a debate within the administration about the merits of the United States' supplying weapons to the rebels, a disparate, little-known group. Publicly, Obama has said only that he is still weighing what to do.

France is the only nation that has said it intends to supply arms to the anti-Gadhafi forces.

es. "What the opposition needs as much as anything right now is some training, some command and control, and some organization," Gates told members of the House Armed Services Committee in a morning session.

"It's pretty much a pickup ballgame at this point."

But, he said, providing training and weapons is "not a unique capability for the United States, and as far as I'm concerned, somebody else can do that."

Gates told Congress that he strongly opposed putting any U.S. forces in Libya. Asked if there would be American "boots on the ground" — uniformed members of the military — Gates swiftly replied, "Not as long as I'm in this job."

He refused to address reports that the Central Intelligence Agency had sent clandestine operatives to Libya to gather intelligence for military airstrikes and to contact and vet the rebels. □



In a two-picture combo, clockwise from top left: Sens. Carl Levin (D-Mich.) and John McCain (R-Ariz.) take their seats as Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates prepare to testify to the Senate Armed Services Committee in Washington, on March 31, 2011. Gates told the Congressional panel that he strongly opposed putting any American forces in Libya.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)



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Wisconsin suspends enforcement of anti-union law

MADISON, Wisconsin – Wisconsin Republicans said on Thursday they would suspend enforcement of a new law reducing public sector union powers, hours after a state judge's terse order stating the act had not taken effect.

The announcements brought new twists to the political wrangling over Wisconsin's budget that has sparked massive pro-union demonstrations and made the state the epicenter of a national debate over similar proposals in several U.S. states.

It also could force Wisconsin to alter budget plans for the current fiscal year and the two-year period that starts July 1, said Mordecai Lee, a University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee governmental affairs professor and former state lawmaker.

"Every day the judge's TRO



Wisconsin State Governor Scott Walker

stays in effect, it's going to screw up their accounting," Lee said.

Wisconsin had begun preparations to increase healthcare and pension contributions of union state workers and halt automatic dues deductions under the law approved by the Republican-led legislature and signed by Republican Governor Scott Walker.

Administration Department Secretary Mike Huebsch said he would suspend implementation of the law, though the department believed the bill has been legally published and is law.

The state Justice Department said in a statement that "we expect a higher court will need to weigh in on the fundamental issues of constitutional

law and judicial power that these proceedings have put to the test."

The proposals faced heated debate in the state Assembly and non-appropriation parts of the bill were removed, allowing Republican senators under the legislature's rules to approve the measure without

Democrats who had fled Wisconsin to avoid a vote.

The tensions continued after Walker signed the bill into law with Democrats pressing a legal challenge to the way it was passed and state officials contending it had taken effect and pushing ahead with its changes despite a court order. □

In Colorado

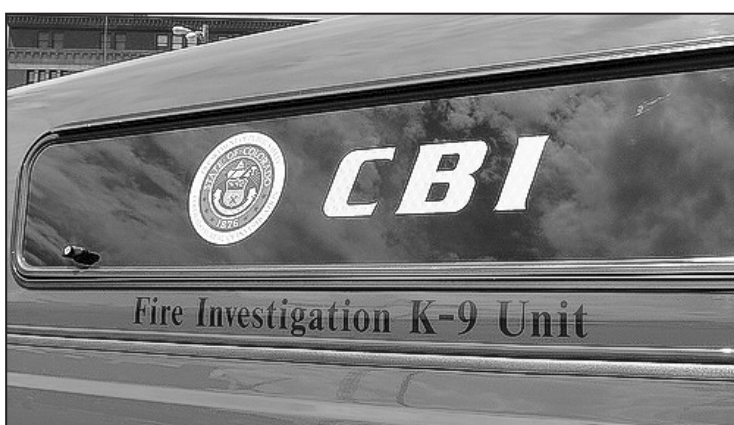
Teen suspected in murder of grandparents

By Keith Coffman
 Associated Press

DENVER – A 16-year-old boy is under investigation for the murder of his great-grandparents, police said on Thursday, the second time in a month that a young male is suspected in a family killing in rural eastern Colorado.

Lance Clem, spokesman for the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, said that detectives have no other suspects in the slayings of Charles Clagget, 80, and his wife Laura, 82, in their Hugo, Colorado home, about 105 miles southeast of Denver.

"He is the focus of the homicide investigation," Clem told AP.



Colorado Bureau of Investigation

The boy, who has not been arrested, lived in the home and there were no signs of a break-in, or any other evidence that would lead investigators to believe an intruder committed the crimes, Clem said.

Authorities have not disclosed

how the elderly couple died.

The murders come less than a month after a 12-year-old boy was charged with murdering his parents and wounding two of his siblings in Burlington, Colorado, about 75 miles northeast of Hugo. □



Appetizer

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- Onion Soup
- Conch Fritters
- Escargot
- Salad

Entrée

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- Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast

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More teens using oral contraceptives



Birth Control

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla — More U.S. teenagers are using birth control pills, according to a new study by AP released on Thursday.

Eighteen percent of teenage women ages 13 to 18 filled prescriptions for oral contraceptives in 2009, a proportion that has steadily risen since 2002, the study found.

The number of commercially insured teens filling birth control prescriptions from 2002 to 2009 increased 50 percent, while prescriptions for those with Medicaid rose 29 percent.

Older teens account for the bulk of the prescriptions, the study found. Among Medicaid recipients, 27.1 percent of 18-year-olds were prescribed oral contraceptives in 2009, compared to 3.7 percent of 13-year-olds. □

Missing Bronx Zoo cobra found

By Bernd Debusmann Jr.
 Associated Press

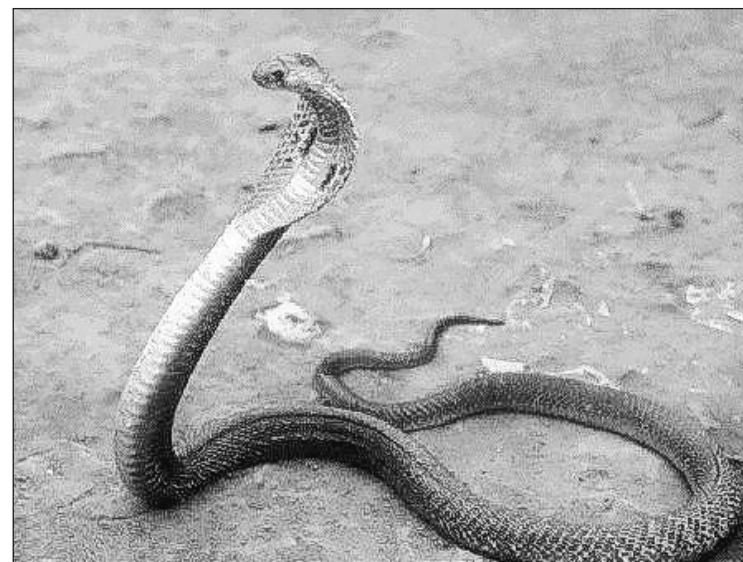
NEW YORK — The cobra missing for nearly a week from the Bronx Zoo was captured on Thursday less than 200 feet from its cage to the relief of neighbors and disappointment of 200,000 people following a Twitter feed in its honor. Lured with wood shavings reeking of mice and rats, the poisonous Egyptian Cobra was trapped at Thursday morning in a dark corner of the Reptile House, its home since it arrived at the zoo in February, zoo officials said.

It had gone missing last week, prompting the zoo to close its reptile enclosure.

“We are delighted to report that the snake has been found alive and well,” said Bronx Zoo Director Jim Breheny.

“The key strategy here was patience,” he said.

Breheny said staff equipped with snake-handling tongs



Missing Cobra found

had conducted around-the-clock sweeps of the enclosure and, at last, spotted the roving reptile coiled in a corner a short distance from the enclosure she had escaped.

It wasn't clear if the 20-inch adolescent female snake had eaten since she went missing last weekend, but she appeared healthy, he said.

“She looks in really good con-

dition. There weren't any obvious bulges,” Breheny said. “Now she's resting comfortable and secure.”

While a great relief to the neighborhood, the snake's capture is somewhat disappointing to many of the 200,000 people following Bronx Zoo Cobra, a Twitter account of the snake's purported gallivanting about town. □

Former cops sentenced in post-Katrina killing

By Kathy Finn
 Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — A federal judge on Thursday sentenced two former New Orleans police officers to long prison terms for their roles in killing a man and burning his body during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

U.S. District Judge Lance Africk sentenced former officer David Warren to 25 years and nine months for the unprovoked shooting and killing of New Orleans resident Henry Glover, 31, outside a strip mall on September 2, 2005. Warren will also pay \$7,600 to Glover's family for funeral expenses.

A federal jury in December found Warren guilty of violating Glover's civil rights and of using a firearm to commit manslaughter.

Former officer Greg McRae received 17 years and three months for setting fire to a car containing Glover's body



Police car is submerged in New Orleans East

in an attempt to cover up the crime. McRae must pay restitution of \$6,000. The jury had convicted him of two civil rights violations, one count of obstructing justice and one count of using a fire during the commission of a felony.

In sentencing Warren, Africk said that both the officer and his victim were “living through the same miserable aftermath of Hurricane Katrina,” according to a written

copy of remarks that the judge read. Despite that, most New Orleans police officers “understand that the Constitution was not suspended during Katrina,” the judge said.

As for McRae, Africk called his actions “barbaric” and told him, “Your callous and depraved conduct deprived the Glover family of the ability to bury Henry Glover with the respect to which he was entitled.” □

3 Course Special Menu

APPETIZERS

- Seafood Cocktail
- Escargots Florentine
- Beef Carpaccio
- Soup of the day

ENTREES

- Jerked Twin Skirt Medallion
- Boneless Chicken Coq ou Vine
- Broiled Pork Chops
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- Grouper Tempura
- Seafood Thermidor
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Tornadoes rake Florida

MIAMI – Tornadoes and thunderstorms raked across central Florida from west to east on Thursday, flipping over some small planes and some vehicles, damaging homes and buildings and causing power outages, emergency service officials said. There were no immediate reports of deaths, but there were some injuries, most of which appeared to be minor. Powerful winds and rain tore through the Lakeland Linder Regional Airport located halfway between Tampa and Orlando, where many aircraft had arrived for an air show known as the “Sun ‘n Fun Fly-in.” “We had tremendous winds, it was an unbelievable storm,” airport director Gene Conrad told AP. “We have numerous aircraft flipped over, a lot of smaller



Tornadoes

aircraft that were tied down in the grass,” he added. The winds damaged some hangars and blew away at least one air show tent. Police said tornado winds overturned a tractor-trailer truck near Tampa, which collided with another vehicle, closing the roadway. It was later reopened. Another tractor-trailer blew over onto two cars on the

Howard Frankland bridge near St. Petersburg. There were also reports of some parked cars overturned. “We don’t have any fatalities, we don’t have any serious injuries that we know of, some bumps and bruises,” Scott Dunlap, chief of administration for Hillsborough County Emergency Operations Center, told AP. □

In Michigan

Group reports finding shipwreck in Lake

HOLLAND, Mich. – An organization that documents shipwrecks said it has found the wreck of a 60-foot, single-masted sloop in Lake Michigan that may date back to the 1830s while looking for remnants of a plane that crashed into the lake more than 60 years ago.

The wreck was found off southwestern Michigan in water about 250 feet deep between Saugatuck and South Haven, Michigan Shipwreck Research Associates announced this week. The discovery was made while working with author Clive Cussler and his sonar operator Ralph Wilbanks of the National Underwater & Marine Agency. The group was searching for the remnants of Northwest Airlines Flight 2501, which crashed into the lake in 1950, killing 58 people. □

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In New York

State workers share \$319 million lottery

By Dan Wiessner
Associated Press

SCHENECTADY, New York — Seven state workers who won the \$319 million Mega Millions lottery said on Thursday they are still deciding whether to split it with five unlucky co-workers who chose not to play this time around. Three women and four men who work as IT specialists and program managers at the New York Division of Housing and Community Renewal and live in the Albany suburbs came forward to claim the fifth largest Mega Millions prize in history.

The so-called "Albany Seven" elected to take a lump sum payout, which amounts to \$19 million after taxes each.

They are among a group of 12 colleagues who for the past four years have pooled their money in the hopes of winning the biggest jackpot game in the United States. Five of



Mega Millions Lottery

them, however, bowed out of the March 25 purchase - which turned out to be the lucky ticket.

"Some of us got in and some of us didn't," said Gabrielle Mahar, 29, of Colonie, who heeded a long-time lottery motto, "You've got to play to win." Her dream purchase, she said, was a dishwasher.

The winners said they have not yet decided whether to

share their winnings with the five who missed out. While none of them went to work this week, the seven co-workers still have not decided whether to retire. One winner said staff training underway for years as part of a state emergency preparedness exercise left him assured that "the people who are there are very capable of picking up if we choose not to return." □

Pictures, letters of King assassin shown online

By Tim Ghianni
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tennessee — A Memphis county official has opened an online museum of case files, personal correspondence and little-seen black-and-white images chronicling the jail time of James Earl Ray, who killed civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. 43 years ago this Monday.

"This is not just an incredible part of Shelby County history and Tennessee history, but national and world history," said Tom Leatherwood, 54, Shelby County register of deeds.

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was gunned down by Ray at the city's Lorraine Motel, sparking unrest across the country and an international manhunt for the killer.

The "museum" can be visited at register.shelby.tn.us. Scroll down below the "archives" section to find the "Martin Luther King Assassination Investigation" link, highlighted in small yellow print.

Making these mostly unseen images and documents available to the public is part of Leatherwood's effort to get the city's historical and genealogical records online and accessible.

One section of the site contains a mammoth batch of documents of the killer's legal proceedings Leatherwood found in 2007.

"I was walking through with a county archivist to try to organize and identify material. We saw this package and we turned it over and we saw 'James E. Ray,'" Leatherwood recalled. "That was a pretty exciting moment for someone who likes history and archives."

He says it took this long to make the records accessible because he needed to get permission from the public defender's office to post files detailing efforts by Ray's attorneys.

Memphis photographer Gil Michael, 77, was caught off-guard when he saw that the site contained photos of Ray that he took on the night he was booked.

Michael, then director of photography for the University of Memphis, was asked by the sheriff's office to volunteer his time and take pictures to be distributed to news outlets. "It wasn't feasible to have tons of media in there," said Michael, who Ray tried to kick as he was shooting a picture. □



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Windows on Aruba launches Business Lunch

Druif Beach – Windows on Aruba overlooking the golf course at Divi Links invited island media personalities to sample the new Business Lunch menu. The menu is designed with the pressed-for-time businessman in mind, offering a small delicious menu selection, which guarantees culinary satisfaction and time economy.

At Window on Aruba power-lunch-goers may enjoy an excellent three-course meal in less than an hour, in a nicely air-conditioned, elegant dining room.

The Food & Beverage department reports that the menu will change every two weeks while the price of \$37.50 will remain the same.

This week's offerings boast Smoke Salmon Truffles on a bed of seaweed and salad or Creamy Dijon Mustard Soup with bacon as appetizers; Duck Breast over a Mushroom Risotto & Asparagus Spears or Shrimp & Escargots over Stirfried Vegetables drizzled with saffron sauce, as entrees.

Windows on Aruba delivers a delectable sampler with three different mini bites of Chef Paul's famed sweets, for dessert.

The restaurant enjoys spectacular views of the signature 9th hole, and is known for its gracious service and comfortable interiors.

The club house offers ample parking. Windows on Aruba is open for lunch from 12noon to 2:30pm and for dinner 6pm to 11pm.

Sunday Brunch continues to be a hit, with an endless a la carte menu of traditional and not-so-traditional brunch specialties served over Champagne and mimosa. The club house offers ample parking, allowing patrons to just park their cars, catch the elevator



to the second floor, then sit back & relax!

Pictured here island press members enjoying lunch

hosted by Managing Director Alex Nieuwmeyer and Island Marketing & Promotions Manager Tabitha Fecunda. □



Eric Wente to play in 'his' tournament

Wente Vineyards owners Arel and Eric Wente arrive



ORANJESTAD - Fourth-generation Wente Vineyards owners Arel and Eric Wente arrived on the island last Thursday, March 31 with big smiles on their faces. Aruba is one of their favorite destinations, and no wonder: Eric



always has a lot of fun here, finishing in the top twenty of his own, personal Wente Vineyards/Papiamento Restaurant Golf Tournament and Arel always has a great time too.

The popular tournament will be held on Saturday, April 2nd; a fabulous, well-attended cocktail party in Papiamento



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boasts a number of materials and textures mixing and matching Carbon, Ceramic, Gold, Palladium, Steel, Tungsten and Zirconium, in the creation of the stylish time pieces. The watches are also famous for their rubber straps,

which took three years and millions of Euros to develop, and are the first natural rubber straps to ever be made in the history of watch making.

Diamond International carries all of Hublot Geneve collections with Bib Bang, Bigger Bang, Classic Fusion and King Power among them, offering many stunning variation in dial, movement, bezel and case design, in addition to strap materials such as Alligator, Steel or natural rubber – Caouchouc – in different colors! Check out the irresistible Tutti Fruitt watches, in many fashion colors, adorned with diamonds and precious stones, once you try one, you'll never want to take it off!

The countdown is on: Diamonds International is opening a dedicated Hublot Boutique adjacent to its flagship Oranjestad location at the entrance to the cruise terminal. □

Restaurant's lovely garden always precedes the sporting event.

Present to welcome the couple at the airport was viticulturist Govert van der Hout of Arion Wine Company, local representative of Wente Wines on the island. Van der Hout said about the upcoming tournament: "For the seventh consecutive year the island's golfers have registered in force, hereby helping us raise money for this year's good cause." The Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad (Food Aid) is the 2011 golf event's benefitting charity – the foundation is trying to help some 1200 needy families, who often have no food, water or electricity.

For Eric Wente, the visit to Aruba is not only play, there is also some work to do. His schedule includes visits to various restaurants and hotels

on the island, where he will meet the managers and staff. Eric Wente feels very strongly about personal contact with his customers and likes to meet his them. After work, however, there is play: and that is what Eric does very well indeed.

His game is good and his partner Rob Smith, general manager of the Radisson Resort, whom he has been teamed up with, is good too. Let's see how Eric and Rob Smith will do in the tournament!

Valued sponsors of the 2011 edition of the Wente Vineyards/Papiamento Restaurant Golf Tournament include Ocean-Air, Robertson Fire Protection, Aruba Bank, Coldwell Banker, Plus Accountants, Elmar, Ling & sons, Nagico Insurance, Oduber & Kan, Setar, VNO, AAA, Essex Freight, ASAP and Dufry. □

At the Renaissance Marketplace

Casa Tua Pizzeria launches terrific breakfast

ORANEJSTAD - Casa Tua restaurant in the Renaissance Marketplace writes breakfast with a capital letter. Their Breakfast is truly outstanding, with fresh orange juice

Rage Silver contributes to Man Na Curazon fundraiser



PALM BEACH –Man Na Curazon, a very successful radio and telethon raised funds for a local not-for-profit foundation, Fundacion pa nos Comunidad, this past weekend. The fund raising drive unfolded at the South Beach

Centre and received the enthusiastic collaboration of the mall's tenants.

Rage Silver, a charming jewelry boutique at the South Beach Centre contributed to the fashion show with sizzling male and female models, practically loaded with silver bangles, chains, rings, and earrings, against all-white outfits.

The show was very well received and helped the foundation reach its goal of over a quarter million florins pledged for the year.

Visit the store at the Palm Beach Centre, it is open daily from 3 to 10 pm, and also boasts a large collection of Camilia beads. □

and mouthwatering options, which give you lots of energy for a great day filled with fun. Breakfast is from 8 until 11 am, so you don't need to hurry. Take your time, savor the day and eat your fill. Casa Tua is at your service!

The breakfast options of the spacious restaurant, located at the very tip of the Renaissance Marketplace, include all-time favorites like Eggs Any Style with cheese, ham, veggies, sausage and bacon, a Croissant, either plain or with Ham and Cheese or Jelly and Crêpes, but one can also go international and order an American Breakfast, a French Breakfast or an Italian Breakfast. The French option includes a croissant or a toasted baguette with butter and jelly and an orange juice, coffee or hot chocolate. The Italian Breakfast offers a ham and cheese Panini, an orange juice and an espresso. The Panini is a freshly toasted Italian sand-

wich to die for.

For the giant hunger there is the Casa Tua Breakfast. This last one is a true feast of two scrambled eggs, two sausages, a croissant, two crêpes and a glass of orange juice as well as the choice between a cappuccino and a café latte. Casa Tua is also open for lunch and dinner, with daily specials adding to an already very extensive menu.

Casa Tua Pizzeria in the Marketplace is one of four Casa Tua's on the island; the other ones are located downtown and on the high rise strip. Casa Tua Barcelona can be found downtown at the Aventura Mall, just across from the back entrance of the Renaissance Mall; it is famous for its freshly made paella and tapas. At Arawak Garden on the Palm Beach high rise strip across from the Radisson Resort you will find the original Casa Tua Pizzeria and Casa Tua Méditerranée is located



in the Palm Beach Plaza Mall; this last one is specialized in the traditional dishes of the Mediterranean region such as Greece, France, Spain and Morocco.

All four restaurants proudly serve excellent pastas and thin-crust pizzas. The son of Casa Tua's owner Victor Natat prepares the dough twice a day, so the pizzas are always super crunchy.

Special at all Casa Tua outlets are the Nespresso coffees, which are the Grand Crus of coffee and made from the finest ground beans. Nespresso is best-known through film-star George Clooney's performance in the Nespresso commercials on television. □

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At Aqua Grill restaurant

Fish isn't just for Fridays during Lent!



PALM BEACH - Many of us growing up dreaded that Easter season rule to not eat meat on Friday. Times change, and so does seafood cuisine, especially at award-winning Aqua Grill restaurant, where it's not just Friday night that diners seek out seafood.

This critically-praised restaurant in Palm Beach is both a local and tourist favorite every night of the week, offering the freshest in local catches, like grouper and snapper, as well as seafood flown in fresh daily, including live Maine lobster.

Pictured here is the Consalvo family (Dominick, Gina, Nicholas, and Anthony) from Jacksonville, FL enjoying their spring break on the island of Aruba and dinner at Aqua Grill.

Aqua Grill is located in Palm Beach, next to Amazonia Churrascaria. □

Thomas Cook bids farewell to Aruba



PALM BEACH -- Thomas Cook Northern Europe ran a charter program to Aruba this past 6 months, from Sweden. The visitors came for two-weeks and stayed all over the island at most of the resorts.

The morning after their arrival, they congregated at Amazonia Churrascaria for a short but entertaining orientation briefing.

Amazonia Churrascaria faithfully played host to the group as Area Manager Joni Perala and his representatives Louise Olsson and Maritza

Hennings answered questions and booked tours.

This week, celebrating the end of the winter season the restaurant hosted the last orientation, pleased to receive the good news that Thomas Cook charters will be coming back at the end of the year and resuming the program for another winter.

Pictured here with the Amazonia and the Thomas Cook reps. □

Tony Roma's is the island's headquarters for ribs!

Many restaurants claim to have the best ribs in the land, but only Tony Roma's world famous ribs continue to rack up taste awards from a variety of cities, regions, and countries across the globe. Tony Roma's Palm Beach brings this classic to Aruba.

Great ribs put Tony Roma's on the map, but the menu also features an array of flame-grilled favorites including steaks, seafood and chicken. The menu also serves up fresh salads, fantastic burgers and sandwiches, grilled fresh local fish, mouthwatering desserts and delicious appetizers - especially the popular, made-from-scratch Onion Loaf.

Today, there are more than 240 locations on five continents. From Seattle to Miami, Tokyo to Madrid, and Calgary to Aruba, Tony Roma's is creating an international incident with its flame-grilled fare. Discover why Tony Roma's is now an island dining institution!



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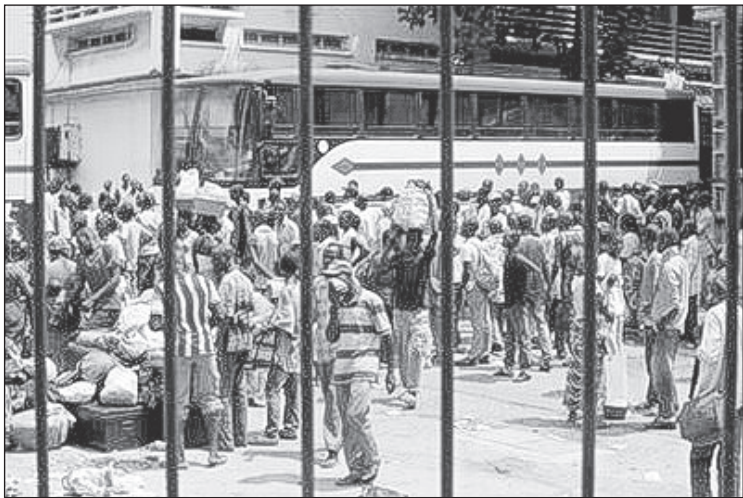
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Swiss police officers secure building

In Switzerland

2 wounded by bomb at nuclear ind. office

GENEVA – A letter bomb exploded Thursday at an office of the Swiss nuclear power industry in the northern city of Olten, wounding two people, police said.

The incident happened hours before another package exploded at a military barracks in Italy, wounding one person, and authorities in Greece defused a mail bomb sent to a maximum security prison where alleged members of an armed anarchist group are on trial.

Authorities haven't drawn a link between the incidents, but Italian news reports citing unidentified sources said Italian investigators believed they were connected. □

In Ivory Coast

Forces "at gates" of Abidjan

By Tim Cocks
Associated Press

ABIDJAN – Ivory Coast's Alassane Ouattara said his fighters were "at the gates" of Abidjan on Thursday after a rapid advance aimed at unseating his rival Laurent Gbagbo.

Soon after, heavy weapons fire rang out in the center of Abidjan, the West African country's main city, and Gbagbo's elite forces took positions around the presidential palace AP witnesses said.

"I call on you to serve your country ... It is time to join your brothers in the Republican Forces," Ouattara said in a statement on his television station on Thursday, saying his soldiers were "at the gates" of Abidjan.

Ouattara's Prime Minister, Guillaume Soro, told AP that Gbagbo had only two or three hours left in power and the "game is over."



Malians wait for transport to return

Gbagbo has refused to step down after a November election that U.N.-certified results showed he lost, triggering a bloody standoff that has killed hundreds and rekindled the country's 2002-3 civil war. French troops stationed in the former French colony deployed around parts of Abidjan, after what one diplomatic source said were attacks on French nationals by pro-Gbagbo mobs. French military officials declined comment.

In a dramatic four-day sweep, Pro-Ouattara forces have taken the key cocoa port of San Pedro and the official capital Yamoussoukro after advancing over hundreds of kilometers since the start of the week. South Africa's government said on Thursday that Gbagbo's army chief of staff, General Phillippe Mangou, had sought refuge at its ambassador's residence in Abidjan, in one of the biggest blows yet to Gbagbo's grip on power. □

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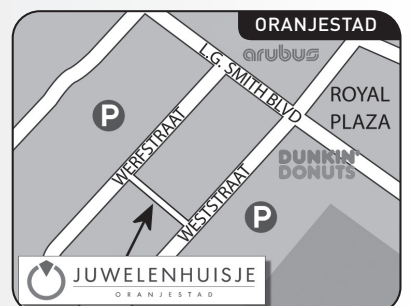
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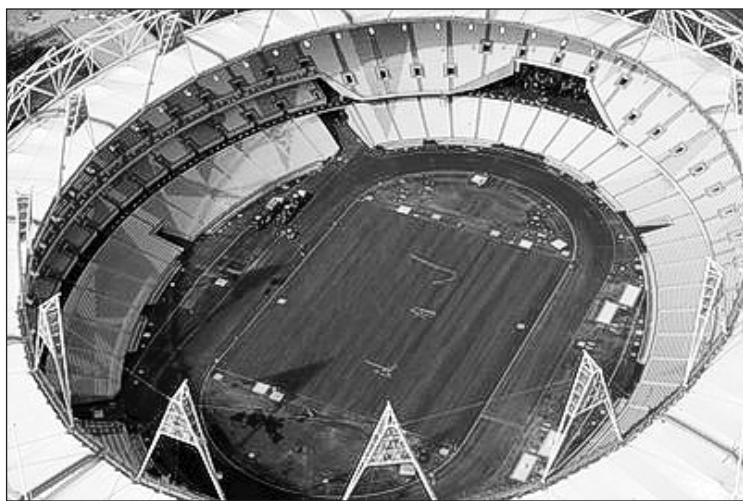
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Aerial view of Olympic Stadium

Security Guard Arrested Near London 2012 Olympic Stadium

By GLEN LEVY

Associated Press

And so it begins: with the countdown to the next Olympic Games well and truly on, a disturbing reminder of the “new normal” has come with a guard being arrested on the suspicion of possessing explosives.

The woman is a 40-year-old dog handler, and was detained after her vehicle was searched by police, after a tip-off. Thankfully, the immediate thought that this was terror-related was dismissed by authorities who went on to reassure the public that the site’s safety wasn’t at risk.

She was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of possessing both an explosive substance and Class A drugs. It appears that trained dogs played a key role. A spokesman for Olympics security provider G4S said, “Our canine services team is licensed to hold small samples of explosives for training purposes and are required to undertake rigorous training and follow strict operational processes.”

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Olympic Delivery Authority said that, “There are robust measures to ensure the safety and security of the Olympic Park. At no point has the safety and security of the Olympic Park been put at risk.”

Rather ironically, the arrest was made on the same day that building work was completed at the Olympic Stadium. It’s not surprising that the authorities were vigilant as pretty much every high-profile sporting event can be considered a perfect platform for global terrorism. If this is the worst incident that takes place in London, organizers will breath a sigh of relief. □

Was Palin’s TV show gov’t-subsidized?

New York – Critics crow over the revelation that “Sarah Palin’s Alaska” took advantage of state tax credits that Palin herself created

Self-styled Tea Party queen Sarah Palin is probably the last person you’d expect to line up for a government handout.

But it has emerged that her reality TV show, “Sarah Palin’s Alaska,” received a \$1.2 million subsidy from the state, covering almost a third of the show’s Alaskan production costs. The state subsidy was signed into law by Palin herself in 2008. Could the fact that Palin took a chunk of taxpayer money to fund her reality TV show come back to bite her if she runs for president next year?

Yes. This is just more evidence of Palin’s self-interest: There’s a phrase for this in Washington, says Timothy P. Carney at The Washington Examiner: “Feathering your nest.” It’s funny how, “like many politicians,” Palin’s view on what government should and shouldn’t do “be-



Sarah Palin

comes more flexible as it comes closer to her own interests.”

Hey, the tax break has done great things for Alaska: I signed that bill years before I ever imagined I would film a TV series in Alaska, responds Sarah Palin on her Facebook page. And it was the production company, not me, that benefited from the tax break. Besides, Alaska’s tax credit program “an effective way to incentivize a new industry that would diversify our economy” is indeed consistent with “my position on the proper role of

government.”

Still, this looks bad for an advocate of limited government: OK, Palin did not benefit from this subsidy herself, says Jim Geraghty at the National Review, but it will hurt her reputation as a “crusader for small government” to be seen picking up a “seven-figure paycheck” from a show that did. I doubt you’d find many Tea Party leaders who believe governments should “be in the business of subsidizing television programs.” Just look at what they’re saying about PBS and NPR. □

Is America over the Tea Party?

New York – Unfavorable views of the grassroots anti-tax movement are surging. Is this a post-midterms hang-over, or has the nation really soured on the Tea Party?

Barack Obama isn’t the only

one facing record-low popularity ratings. The Tea Party, so influential in the 2010 midterms, is facing its worst-ever polling numbers. A CNN poll shows that 47 percent of Americans now have an unfavorable view of the grassroots movement (a number that’s nearly doubled since January 2010), while only 32 percent of Americans view it favorably. The Tea Party’s unpopularity surged among lower-income Americans in particular, rising 15 percentage points since last October. Is the Tea Party truly turning off America?

Yes. The Tea Party is just a faction of the same old GOP: The Tea Party’s drop in popularity is easily explained, says Paul Waldman at American Prospect: “They’re Republicans.” At first, the Tea Party insisted it was “above partisanship,” and critical of both parties. “This was always baloney,” but the movement did a good job of persuading middle America otherwise. Now,

the independents have figured it out.

No. The movement just needs to regain its focus: The Tea Party is “going through a hang-over,” says Michael Barone in the Washington Examiner. Perhaps they assumed that, since they won in November, the fight for lower spending and small government is over. But the battle over collective bargaining rights in Wisconsin, for example, proves that’s not true. Voters still aren’t well-informed, and the press won’t educate them on the issues. Tea Partiers need to step up their game and handle this themselves. A weakened Tea Party will survive: Polls across the board now say Americans who once held ambivalent views about the Tea Party are now “coming to a more negative impression,” says Nate Silver at The New York Times. This isn’t “especially new” voters have become slowly turned off by the Tea Party “over the course of the past 15 months or so.” □

Can Obama really cut oil imports?

New York – The president unveils a plan to dramatically reduce America’s dependence on foreign oil within a decade. Is that realistic?

On Wednesday, President Obama announced an ambitious plan to reduce oil imports by one-third in the next decade as part of a new push to increase our energy security. Obama wants to ramp up oil production in the U.S., increase fuel efficiency, boost next-generation biofuels, and use more natural gas. But given that just about every president since Richard Nixon has pledged to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, how likely is Obama’s plan to succeed?

The president’s plan has no chance: This will happen when pigs fly, says Christopher Mims in Grist. “It’s hard to think of anything short of an economic crash bigger than any ever seen in U.S. history, or perhaps an alien race

forcing all of us to take to our bicycles that could conceivably accomplish such a goal.” And even those surreal ideas are probably more realistic than the one thing that might work: “A steep gas tax.”

Hey, it’s not so outlandish: “Cutting imports won’t be that difficult,” says Olivier Jakob of PetroMatrix, as quoted by Reuters. It would probably require U.S. refiners to sell more gas to the U.S. market, and that could be “a bit controversial.” But “Saudi Arabia has given up on the West,” because demand here “has peaked and the future is really in the East.” So we may have to fend for ourselves in the future anyway.

This is merely a good start: “Cutting U.S. oil imports by one-third in about ten years is a laudable, reasonable, and ambitious goal,” says Michael Levi at the Council on Foreign Relations. □

In Syria

Assad takes steps to reforms



Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad

DAMASCUS – Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, facing a wave of protests demanding greater freedoms, took steps on Thursday toward addressing grievances including lifting emergency law and granting disenfranchised Kurds rights.

Assad, who drew international criticism for failing to spell out reforms in his first public comments on Wednesday since unrest swept Syria, also ordered an investigation into protest deaths in the flash-point city of Deraa and the port of Latakia.

Inspired by popular revolts elsewhere in the Arab world, the unrest has presented the gravest challenge to Assad's 11-year rule in Syria, which maintains an anti-Israel alliance with Shi'ite Iran and supports militant groups Hezbollah and Hamas.

It was doubtful that Assad's gestures would soon defuse the unprecedented outbreak of public discontent in one of the Middle East's most tightly controlled countries.

Online activists have called on protesters to demonstrate across the country on what they have dubbed the "Friday of Martyrs" until their demands for democratization are met.

In the past, Assad has set up committees to investigate contentious issues but no announcements were made after the initial formation. Officials have repeatedly said a draft law on allowing political parties and lifting emergency law were on the agenda of Assad's Baath Party, but they never materialized. □

Japan crisis drags

France wants global nuclear reform

By Kiyoshi Takenaka
Associated Press

TOKYO – France called for new global nuclear rules as Japan's atomic crisis reached three weeks with widening radiation from its crippled power plant but scant hope of a quick resolution.

President Nicolas Sarkozy whose nation is the most nuclear-dependent in the world paid a quick visit to Tokyo to show support and also propose a global conference in France for May to fix new international atomic regulations. "We must look at this coldly so that such a catastrophe never occurs again," said Sarkozy, who chairs the Group of 20 bloc of nations, during his brief stopover.

It was the first visit by a foreign leader since a March 11 earthquake and tsunami battered north Japan, leaving nearly 28,000 people dead or missing and damage that may top \$300 billion.

Prime Minister Naoto Kan, under enormous pressure as he struggles to manage Japan's toughest test since World War II, welcomed the gesture of solidarity.

"I told him a Japanese proverb 'a friend who comes on a rainy day is your true friend', and thanked him for coming to Japan from the bottom of my heart," he said.

Illustrating the gravity of the problem, radioactive iodine 131 was found in ground water near No.1 reactor of Fukushima Daiichi complex, plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO) said.

"Radioactive materials in the air could have come down to the earth's surface and they could have seeped into the ground due to rainfall," a company spokesman said.

Radiation in water at an underground tunnel near another reactor of the plant had also been found more than 10,000 times above the normal level of water in reactors, Kyodo news agency quoted TEPCO as saying. Radioactive cesium had appeared in beef from the area, Kyodo added.

France is a global leader in the



Broken road is seen at tsunami-destroyed area

nuclear industry, and Paris has flown in experts from state-owned nuclear reactor maker Areva to work with Japanese engineers.

"Areva is one of the companies that will make the most

out of a nuclear revival and therefore will be in most trouble if there isn't a nuclear revival," said Malcolm Grimston, an expert from London's Imperial College.

"Certainly Sarkozy or France

generally have a very strong interest in getting things moving as quickly as possible and trying to ensure that there isn't a major backlash. France would be one of the biggest losers from that."

Other nations are also scrambling to help Japan.

The United States and Germany are sending robots to help repair and explore the damaged Fukushima Daiichi plant. Kyodo said some 140 U.S. military radiation safety experts would soon visit to offer technical help. The Japanese disaster, the worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl in 1986, has appalled the world and revived heated debate over the safety and benefits of atomic power. □



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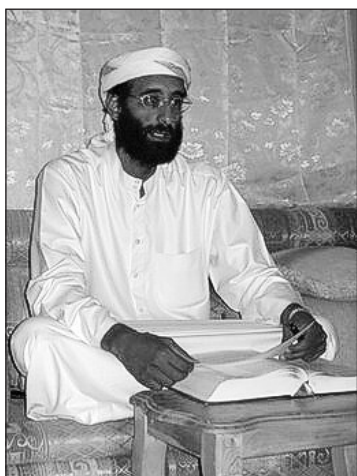


US-Yemeni cleric:

Arab unrest chance for al-Qaida

By MAAMOUN YOUSSEF
Associated Press

CAIRO – A U.S.-born radical Yemeni cleric claims in a new article that violent Islamist groups will be able to take advantage of the Arab world's wave of popular unrest, even if it leads to secular governments in Egypt, Tunisia, Libya and other countries. Anwar al-Awlaki writes in a new edition of al-Qaida's on-line magazine that any new governments will be weaker than the regimes they are replacing, and that will create opportunities for al-Qaida and its allies to operate with more



Imam Anwar al-Awlaki in Yemen

freedom. "Even if the upcoming governments wanted to continue

with a policy of appeasing the West and Israel, they would not have the strength and depth of power that the previous governments had developed over the past three decades," al-Awlaki writes in the English-language article. Western experts and government officials have described the overthrow of the Western-allied presidents of Tunisia and Egypt by peaceful and ideologically moderate uprisings as blows to the violent ideology of al-Qaida and other militant groups.

Al-Awlaki writes that such statements by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Defense Secretary Robert Gates "prove that either the intelligence reports these guys are reading are misleading or that they are trying to justify the stance that they are forced to take in support of the Arab masses, by claiming that they are bad for al Qaeda when they know very well that the opposite is the case."

Whatever the outcome of the revolts, "our mujahideen brothers in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya .. will get a chance to breathe again after three decades of suffocation," he writes.

Al-Awlaki writes that Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi imprisoned thousands of militants who will now have a chance to regroup in the turmoil and rejoin other fighters. The al-Qaida-linked cleric is believed to have offered inspiration to attacks in the United States. Militants in Yemen have made territorial gains in recent days as its government has weakened in the face of popular demonstrations that have won support of tribal leaders, military defectors and clerics there. □

NATO commander warns against attacks on civilians



Libyans inspect destroyed military vehicle

By SLOBODAN LEKIC

Associated Press

BRUSSELS – The new commander of international military operations in Libya warned Thursday that anyone attacking civilians would be "ill-advised" to continue, and said he would look into a report by a Vatican envoy that air strikes had killed 40 innocent people.

As NATO took over command of all air operations over Libya, Canadian Lt. Gen. Charles Bouchard said the bloc had already deployed more than 100 fighters and support aircraft to monitor the no-fly zone over Libya and prevent attacks on civilians. NATO later said the allies had supplied a total of 205 aircraft and 21 navy vessels for the operation, which includes patrolling the seas off Libya to prevent the delivery of weapons to the warring sides.

The U.S. contributed 90 aircraft and one warship. Among the 14 nations listed, France provided 33 aircraft and one ship, and Britain 17 planes and two warships.

The alliance also had a dozen frigates patrolling the Mediterranean Sea off Libya to prevent weapons shipments from reaching the warring sides.

The hand-over from the U.S., which had been leading the impromptu group of countries bombing forces loyal to Libyan strongman Moammar Gadhafi, "has been seamless with no gaps in the effort," the commander told journalists from his headquarters in Naples, Italy.

His remarks were transmitted by video link to other journalists in Brussels. NATO aircraft had already flown more than 90 sorties since the alliance took over command Bouchard said.

Addressing those attacking civilians, Bouchard said: "You would be ill-advised to continue such activities. I recommend that you cease such activities."

He also said NATO would investigate a claim by the Vatican's envoy in Libya that air strikes in Tripoli during the night had killed 40 civilians though he noted that the alleged incident was said to have taken place before NATO took command.

"I am aware of this news report," he said. I take every one of those issues seriously, but our mission began ... today."

The report by the Fides news agency quoted Bishop Giovanni Innocenzo Martinelli, the apostolic vicar of Tripoli, as saying he had learned that a building in the district of Buslim had collapsed during bombing, killing 40 people inside. □



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Soldier breaks silence over Auschwitz heroics



Britain's Denis Avey

By Mike Collett-White
Associated Press

LONDON— It took him more than 60 years to break his silence, but in a new book 92-year-old Denis Avey tells the story of how he broke into Auschwitz concentration camp twice to witness for himself the horrors of the Holocaust. Avey was a British soldier captured during World War Two and sent to a labor camp close to Auschwitz where he worked at the IG Farben plant alongside inmates from the concentration camp, nicknamed "stripeys" after their uniforms.

While Avey, a headstrong, battle-hardened soldier, was told about the mass extermination of Jews and experienced the sickening smell from a nearby crematorium,

he wanted to see for himself what was happening in Auschwitz.

While conditions in his own labor camp were appalling, the food was better and treatment less harsh than in Auschwitz. And as a prisoner of war, Red Cross packages occasionally made it through containing chocolate and cigarettes, which could then be bartered for better provisions and aid survival.

After weeks of preparation, including bribes to a guard, Avey twice swapped uniforms with a Dutch Jew of roughly the same height to sneak into the camp where he spent the night. On both occasions the men managed to change back into their own clothes, despite the risk of discovery and certain death. □

New blow to regime

Senior Libyan official resigns

By HADEEL AL-SHALCHI
Associated Press

AJDABIYA, Libya — Opponents of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi were knocked back by government troops for a third straight day Thursday but took heart in a sign that the embattled regime is cracking at the highest levels: the defection of the second top official in roughly 48 hours.

Ali Abdessalam Treki, a former foreign minister and U.N. General Assembly president, had been named to represent Libya at the United Nations after a wave of defections early in the uprising.

But Treki, who is currently in Cairo, said in a statement posted on several opposition websites that he was not going to accept that job or any other.

"We should not let our country fall into an unknown fate," he said. "It is our nation's right to live in freedom, democracy and a good life."

Libyan Foreign Minister Moussa Koussa flew to England from Tunisia on Wednesday and the British government said he had resigned. He is privy to all the inner workings of the regime, so his departure could open the door for some hard intelligence, though Britain refused to offer him immunity from prosecution.

"We believe that the regime is



Libyan rebel plugs his ears

crumbling from within," opposition spokesman Mustafa Gheriani said in Benghazi, the rebels' de facto capital.

Gadhafi issued a defiant statement after the departures, calling on the leaders of countries attacking his forces to resign and accusing them of being "affected by power madness."

"The solution for this problem is that they resign immediately and their peoples find alternatives to them,"

the Libya state news agency quoted him as saying.

Gheriani compared the Libyan strongman to a wounded animal.

"An injured wolf is much more dangerous than a healthy wolf. But we hope the defections continue and I think he'll find himself with no one around him," Gheriani said.

Libyan officials, who initially denied Koussa's defection, said he had resigned because he was sick with diabetes and high blood pressure.

Government spokesman Moussa Ibrahim said Koussa was given permission to go to Tunisia, but the regime was surprised to learn he had flown to London.

"I talked to many people and this is not a happy piece of news, but people are saying, 'So what?'

If someone wants to step down that's his decision," Ibrahim said.

Nations behind the campaign of international airstrikes that have hobbled Libya's military hailed Koussa's resignation as a sign of weakness in Gadhafi's more-than-41-year reign. □

Japan seeks expertise in nuclear crisis

By RYAN NAKASHIMA
Associated Press

TOKYO, Japan — Japan is increasingly turning to other countries for help as it struggles to stabilize its tsunami-stricken nuclear plant and stop radiation leaks that are complicating efforts to recover the bodies of some of the thousands swept away by the towering wave.

French, American and international experts even a robot are either in Japan or on their way, and French President Nicholas Sarkozy visited Tokyo on Thursday to meet with the prime minister and show solidarity.

Workers are racing to find the source of contaminated water



French President Nicolas Sarkozy

that has been pooling in the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant since the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. The leaks have often forced workers to flee the plant, preventing them from restart-

ing important cooling systems.

"The amount of water is enormous, and we need any wisdom available," said nuclear safety agency spokesman Hidetoh Nishiyama. □

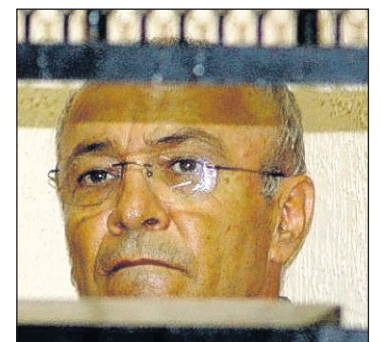
Mexican businessman convicted of child porn

By GABRIEL ALCOCER
Associated Press

CANCUN, Mexico — A prominent Mexican businessman accused of luring poor girls to his home was sentenced Wednesday to 13 years on child pornography charges in a case that tarnished the reputations of a state governor and another businessman.

Jean Succar Kuri, a legal U.S. resident who was extradited to Mexico in 2006, was convicted of child pornography and abuse of minors, a federal court in the Caribbean resort of Cancun announced.

He was ordered to pay 85,837



Jean Succar Kuri

pesos in fines and make payments of 350,000 pesos to each of the victims.

The court's statement gave no details on the evidence against Succar, who has denied the charges. His lawyer, Fernando Lechuga, said he would appeal. □

Democracy is messy



By **NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF**
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CAIRO — Egypt is a mess. Nearly two months after street protests inspired a democratic revolution, the transitional military-backed government has proposed — you guessed it — a law banning protests. That’s partly because everybody is protesting, even the police. The cops want more money, perhaps because their diminished authority means that they can now extract less in bribes.

With the police out of commission, the army uses thugs to intimidate its critics. And, when it really gets irritated, it arrests and tortures democracy activists. As I wrote in my previous column, it has even tried to humiliate female activists by subjecting them to forced “virginity exams.”

The Muslim Brotherhood, once banned, has been brought into the power structure. Instead of denouncing the system, it is becoming part of it — and some of its activists are rampaging around Cairo University.

Yet for Americans, what is unfolding is perhaps a reassuring mess. Westerners have mostly worried that Egypt might plunge into Iran-style Islamic fundamentalism — and, to me, that seems a reflection of our own hobgoblins more than Egypt’s. Indeed, it seems increasingly likely that Egypt won’t change as much as many had expected. Moreover, the biggest losers of the revolution are likely to be violent Islamic extremist groups that lose steam when the more moderate Muslim Brotherhood joins the system.

“There is a determined effort to stop the revolution in its tracks,” notes Professor

Khaled Fahmy of the American University in Cairo. That’s disappointing for democracy activists like him, but reassuring to those who fear upheaval.

Based on my third trip to Cairo since the protests began, here’s my guess as to how events unfold:

— Post-revolution Egypt will look a lot like pre-revolution Egypt, but modestly less repressive and with a more powerful civil society. The army will continue to run the show, as it has since 1952 through onetime officers like Hosni Mubarak, and will ensure continuity.

— People will continue to be tortured, but will complain about it more. Peace with Israel will continue, but Egyptian officials will speak up more forcefully about suffering in Gaza.

— The best bet for the next president is Amr Moussa. He’s a former foreign minister who has led the Arab League: A veteran politician and pragmatist who would constitute a breath of fresh air but not a gust of it.

— Islamists will play a greater role in society and government, as they do in Turkey. But this will also mean that they are trying to build things rather than blow them up.

Islamic groups are certainly more active than before. Mohammed Alaiwa, a professor of literary criticism at Cairo University, told me that he was in a dean’s office recently when a Muslim Brotherhood student burst in, pulled out a pistol and threatened to shoot the dean unless he resigned then and there (the student eventually backed down). Alaiwa said that he now fears the Muslim Brotherhood students.

Meanwhile, the up-and-comer Islamists are Salafis, who think the Muslim Brotherhood is far too moderate. A group of Salafis recently attacked a Coptic Christian, apparently accusing him of illicit sexual activity and cutting off his ear. Order is breaking down somewhat. When Egyptians celebrated International Women’s Day on March 8, gangs of men harassed them. □

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Let there be light bulbs



By **GAIL COLLINS**
© 2011 New York Times News Service

Of all the controversies now raging in Washington, the one I find most endearing is the fight over federal regulation of light bulb efficiency.

“Instead of a leaner, smarter government, we bought a bureaucracy that now tells us which light bulbs to buy,” complained Rep. Michele Bachmann in her Tea Party response to the president’s State of the Union address.

Bachmann has strong opinions on this matter. She is the author of the Light Bulb Freedom of Choice Act, which would repeal a federal requirement that the typical 100-watt bulb become 25 percent more energy efficient by 2012.

Bachmann hateshateshates

that sort of thing, as you would expect from a woman whose Earth Day speech in 2009 was an ode to carbon dioxide. (“It’s a part of the regular life cycle of the earth.”)

Hysteria over the government taking away our right to buy inefficient light bulbs has been sweeping through certain segments of the Republican Party. Rep. Joe Barton of Texas, sponsor of the Better Use of Light Bulbs Act, says we’re about to lose the bulb that “has been turning back the night ever since Thomas Edison ended the era of a world lit only by fire in 1879.” Barton’s vision of the standard 100-watt incandescent is so heroic, you’d think it would be getting its own television series.

“When Congress dictates which light bulbs folks in South Carolina must buy, it’s clear the ‘nanny state’ mentality has gotten out of control in Washington,” said Sen. Jim DeMint, one of 27 co-sponsors of a Senate bill calling for repeal of the new efficiency standards.

The great thing about this battle, which has spawned predictions of widespread light-bulb-hoarding, is that it will take your mind off Libya, Afghanistan, Iraq and the pending government shutdown.

It’s a little like the Donald Trump presidential candidacy, only less irritating.

Opponents of the law claim that the newer, more energy-efficient and cost-saving breeds of bulb give a less pleasing light, although that doesn’t seem to have dissuaded the American consumers from moving away from the incandescents in droves. The National Electrical Manufacturers Association says demand for the allegedly beloved old bulbs has dropped 50 percent over the last five years. A terribly cynical mind might suspect the whole hubbub was just for political show. Jeff Bingaman, the chairman of the energy committee, said he had not actually been accosted by any of his fellow senators begging him to help get angry light bulb aficionados off their backs.

“I heard the statements at the committee hearing, but nobody’s walking the halls lobbying me about this,” he said. That was the famous hearing during which Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky began with a rant about light bulbs and wound up complaining that his toilets back home didn’t work. “You busybodies always want to tell us how we can live our lives better,” he said passionately. □

Federer moves into semis after Simon retires

Roger Federer, of Switzerland, acknowledges the fans as he prepares to leave after his win against Gilles Simon who retired at the Sony Ericsson Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Fla., Thursday, March 31, 2011.

Associated Press
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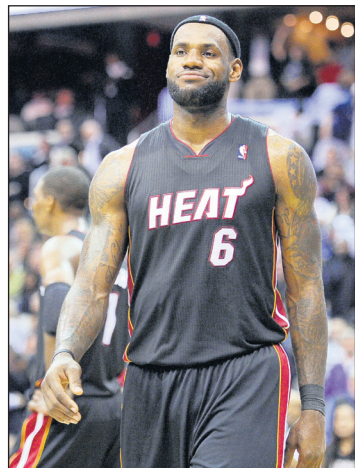


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Friday, April 1 2011

NBA Roundup



Miami Heat forward LeBron James reacts during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Washington Wizards, Wednesday, March 30, 2011, in Washington. The Heat won 123-107.

Associated Press

LeBron's 35 help Heat edge Wizards

WASHINGTON (AP) — LeBron James scored 35 points and Dwyane Wade added 33 as the Miami Heat fought off a Washington comeback and defeated the lowly Wizards 123-107 in the NBA on Wednesday.

James added eight rebounds and eight assists and Chris Bosh scored 26 points to help Miami avoid what would have been a second consecutive embarrassing loss. The Heat fell to last-place Cleveland on Tuesday.

The Heat led by as many as 13 before the Wizards made it a one-point game in the fourth quarter, even after their best player, John Wall, was ejected. But Wade responded with a three-point play, and Washington never got closer than two.

Continued on Page B6



Cincinnati Reds catcher Ramon Hernandez rounds the bases past Milwaukee Brewers first baseman Prince Fielder, right, after hitting a walk-off three-run home run off relief pitcher John Axford in the ninth inning of a major league baseball game, Thursday, March 31, 2011 in Cincinnati. Cincinnati won 7-6.

Associated Press
Page B3

Walker equals course record at Houston Open



Jimmy Walker watches his tee shot on the second hole during the first round of the Houston Open PGA Tour golf tournament, Thursday, March 31, 2011, in Humble, Texas. Walker has the lead with an eight under.

Associated Press

CHRIS DUNCAN
AP Sports Writer

HUMBLE, Texas (AP) — Jimmy Walker equaled the course record with a 9-under 63 on Thursday to take a two-shot lead over Josh Teater and Nick O'Hern of Australia after the first round of the Houston Open. Walker matched the record set by Johnson Wagner and Adam Scott in the first round of the 2008 tournament. Wagner went on to win that year. Chris Kirk was three back after a 66, and Steve Stricker, John Rollins, Nathan Green and Brendan Steele shot 67s and were four behind. Most of the big-name players

were also close to the top, as they fine-tune their games for next week's Masters. England's Lee Westwood and Ireland's Padraig Harrington were in a large group of players at 4 under, Phil Mickelson and Retief Goosen of South Africa were at 2 under, and former Masters champions Angel Cabrera of Argentina and Fred Couples were 1 under. Calm conditions yielded low scores all day at the Tournament Course at Redstone Golf Club outside Houston. A total of 32 players broke 70 and 87 players shot even-par (72) or better. Walker needed only 23 putts, the fewest of any player in

the first round, to make up for several erratic tee shots. "I felt like I kind of got back to feeling that stroke that I was using earlier in the year, when I was putting so good and playing so good," Walker said. Walker changed putters at the start of the season, and he's made six cuts in eight starts and already has three top-10 finishes this year. His round Thursday matched the lowest of his career. "When you putt well," he said, "it cures a lot of ills, for sure."

Tournament organizers lured many top players by grooming the course to simulate conditions at Augusta — light rough, shaved mounds, fast greens and fairways mowed toward the tee. Stricker, ranked No. 10 in the world, said he plays in Houston every year, no matter where it falls on the schedule, to return a favor from tournament director Steve Timms. Stricker finished 162nd on the money list in 2005, and needed a sponsor's exemp-

tion from Timms to play in the Houston event the following year. He shot a 66 in the final round to finish third, his first of seven top-10s in 2006, and was later named the PGA Tour's comeback player of the year. "This tournament means a lot to me," Stricker said. "The confidence level and my game have come a long way since '06, but this was a stepping stone. It gave me a lot of confidence, and I ran with it and I've been playing well ever since." □

Ishikawa to give 2011 earnings to Japan victims



Ryo Ishikawa, of Japan, hits a shot from the seventh tee during the first round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament at Bay Hill in Orlando, Fla., Thursday, March 24, 2011.

Associated Press

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer
JACKSONVILLE, Florida (AP) — Ryo Ishikawa first made people take notice because of his golf. He won his first Japan Golf Tour event as a 15-year-old amateur, won the money title at 17, and last year became the first player to shoot 58 on a major tour. His latest eye-opening feat brought attention to his heart. Wanting to do his part to help victims of the earthquake and tsunami that devastated his Japan homeland, Ishikawa decided to donate his entire tournament earnings this year — plus a bonus for every birdie he makes — toward relief efforts.

"I don't view this as pressure to perform, but it will instead be extra motivation for me," Ishikawa said on Thursday in an email to The Associated Press. "I always believe in myself, but because I am playing for the people of Japan, I feel like I will be playing with a greater purpose this year." Ishikawa, who at 19 already has nine wins on the Japan Tour, was third on Japan's money list last year with just over \$1.82 million.

He also has pledged about \$1,200 (100,000 yen) for every birdie. He led the Japan Tour last year with 341 birdies, which would amount to more than \$400,000. Even in a sport driven by charity, Ishikawa's generosity caught the attention of his colleagues. "It's the most unbelievable gesture ever, isn't it?" Geoff Ogilvy said. □



Brittany Lincicome tees off on the 11th hole during the first round of the LPGA Kraft Nabisco Championship golf tournament in Rancho Mirage, Calif., Thursday, March 31, 2011.

Associated Press

Lincicome, Lewis share lead at Kraft Nabisco

GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer
RANCHO MIRAGE, California (AP) — Brittany Lincicome and Stacy Lewis overcame the stifling California desert heat for 6-under 66s Thursday, taking the first-round lead at the Kraft Nabisco

Championship. Sandra Gal of Germany and Mika Miyazato of Japan were one shot back at the LPGA Tour's first major of the year. Lincicome is the 2009 Kraft Nabisco champion, while Lewis is still looking for her first LPGA Tour victory. □

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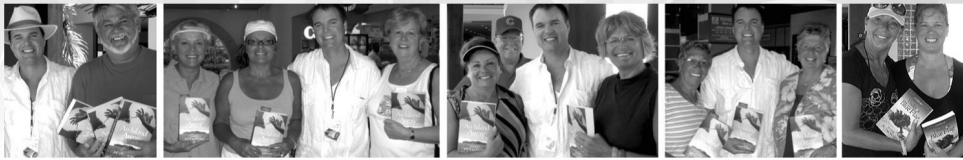


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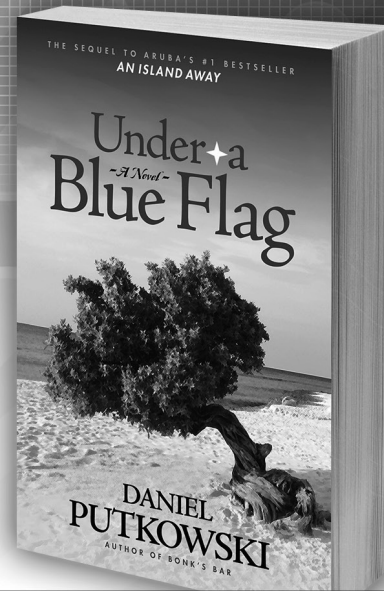


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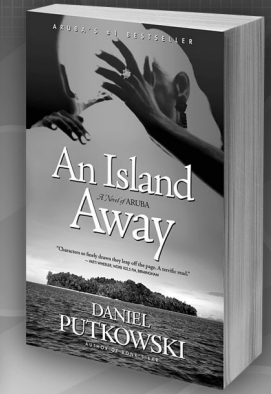
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AL Roundup

Granderson, Teixeira help Yankees win season opener

NEW YORK (AP) — Curtis Granderson hit the winning homer and Mark Teixeira had a three-run shot off Justin Verlander to lift New York over the Detroit Tigers 6-3 on Thursday in the first regular-season game played in the Bronx in March.

Yankees starter CC Sabathia pitched six workmanlike in-

nings, Derek Jeter added a sacrifice fly in the seventh using his new stride-less swing and Mariano Rivera, wearing his socks high for perhaps the first time, earned his first save and 560th of his career.

Granderson made two spectacular catches against his former team and homered for the third straight opener. He

connected against former Yankee Phil Coke (0-1) as New York embarked on its first full season without George Steinbrenner as owner since 1973.

The Tigers tied it 3-3 in the fifth, but Granderson led off the seventh with his go-ahead homer in the first Yankees-Tigers opener in New York in 45 years. □



New York Yankees Russell Martin, (55) and Derek Jeter, center, greet Mark Teixeira after Teixeira's, third inning three-run home run in their opening day baseball game against the Detroit Tigers at Yankee Stadium on Thursday, March 31, 2011 in New York. Tigers catcher Alex Avila is at left.

Associated Press

NL Roundup

Hernandez's walk-off homer leads Reds over Brewers 7-6

CINCINNATI (AP) — Ramon Hernandez hit a two-out, three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning to rally the Cincinnati Reds past the Milwaukee Brewers 7-6 on Thursday in an opening-day flashback to their National League Central title season. The Brewers became the first team in 42 years to open the season with successive homers when Rickie Weeks and Carlos Gomez connected off Edinson Volquez. Ryan Braun also had a solo shot, helping Milwaukee take a 6-3 lead to the ninth.

But Cincinnati loaded the bases with none out, and closer John Axford fanned Jay Bruce, and got Jonny Gomes to hit a sacrifice fly to deep center.

Then Hernandez hit an opposite-field homer into the

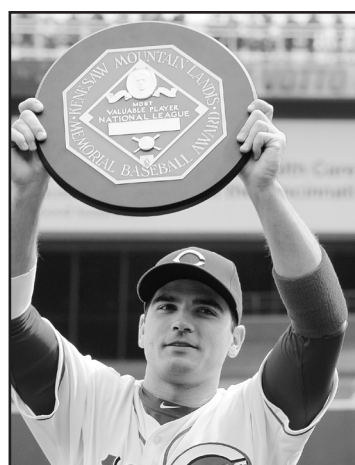
Brewers' bullpen, his fourth hit of the game.

Drew Stubbs and NL MVP Joey Votto also hit solo homers for the Reds.

Braves 2, Nationals 0

At Washington, Chipper Jones returned from major knee surgery by scoring the 2011 season's first run on a chilly, damp opening day to help make Fredi Gonzalez a winner in his debut as Atlanta's manager.

The Braves played their first regular-season game since Bobby Cox retired at the end of 2010 after two decades — and 15 playoff appearances — as their skipper. With his sinker in fine, darting form, Derek Lowe (1-0) allowed three singles in 5 2-3 innings. Brian McCann drove in Jones with a single off Livan Hernandez (0-1) in the first, and



Cincinnati Reds first baseman Joey Votto holds up the National League Most Valuable Player award he won last season during pre-game ceremonies prior to their opening day baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers, Thursday, March 31, 2011 in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

Jason Heyward led off the second with a homer. □

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"FAVI FUNDACION
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Federer reaches semis, Sharapova in Miami final



Maria Sharapova, of Russia, returns to Andrea Petkovic during a semifinal match at the Sony Ericsson Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Fla., Thursday, March 31, 2011. Sharapova won 3-6, 6-0, 6-2.

STEVEN WINE
AP Sports Writer
KEY BISCAYNE, Florida
(AP) — Roger Federer advanced to the Sony Ericsson Open semifinals when Gilles

Associated Press

Simon retired with a stiff neck after losing the first three games on Thursday. Federer's opponent on Friday will be the winner of the quarterfinal late Thursday between

No. 1 Rafael Nadal and No. 7 Tomas Berdych. Federer beat Nadal for the Key Biscayne title early in their rivalry in 2005, and they haven't played each other in the United States since. Maria Sharapova overcame a slow start by winning 11 consecutive games to reach the women's final, beating Andrea Petkovic of Germany 3-6, 6-0, 6-2.

Sharapova seeks her first title since May 2010, and her first at Key Biscayne.

"It would mean a lot," she said. "It's the biggest tournament I think after the Grand Slams. I look forward to going out there and getting it done." Her opponent on Saturday will be the winner of the semifinal late Thursday between

2009 champion Victoria Azarenka and No. 3-seeded Vera Zvonareva.

The No. 3-seeded Federer won 12 of the 15 points against Simon, and the match lasted only 10 minutes before the Frenchman walked off the court to boos from the stadium crowd. "The public pays the ticket to see the players," Simon said. "It's tough for them to see Roger only 10 minutes. But of course the sadness on the court is me for sure. You have to play 100 percent if you want to have a chance to win. When you play Roger, you have to play more than that." Simon said he aggravated a recurring problem with his neck warming up before the match.

"I didn't know anything coming in," Federer said. "You get booed off the court — that's rough. But that's how it goes." Sharapova double-faulted three times to lose her first service game, and as the No. 21-seeded Petkovic pulled ahead, the crowd began to anticipate another Petko Dance, her victory jig that became a tournament staple in the past

week.

Instead, it was Sharapova celebrating at the end, fists raised as she let out a jubilant scream. Later, she took a playful jab at Petkovic.

"I sensed that she was tired — probably a lot of the dancing that she has been doing," Sharapova said. "And I took advantage of it."

The No. 16-seeded Sharapova waged the turnaround by cutting down on the errors that plagued her early in the match. She was aggressive returning Petkovic's serve and broke seven times, and she moved well despite turning her left ankle late in her quarterfinal win.

Petkovic had 11 game points in the second set but failed to convert any as the match began to slip away.

Sharapova, a former No. 1 player who has struggled to stay healthy in recent years, began this year ranked 18th and will return to the top 10 next week. She was the Key Biscayne runner-up in 2005 and 2006, and missed the tournament in 2008-10 because of injuries. □

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A-Rod nearly outearns the Kansas City Royals

RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

The Kansas City Royals are barely making more than Alex Rodriguez this year.

The salaries for Kansas City's 27 players on its opening-day roster and disabled list total \$36.1 million, according to an analysis of Major League Baseball contracts by The Associated Press.

A-Rod alone makes \$32 million atop the New York Yankees' \$201.7 million payroll. He is MLB's highest-paid player for the 11th straight year.

Overall, MLB salaries were nearly flat this year. The average of the 844 players on opening-day rosters and disabled lists was about \$3.3 million, up just 0.2 percent from last year. The increase was the lowest since a 2.7 percent drop in 2004.

Kansas City's payroll was cut in half from \$72.3 million at the start of 2010 after the team traded Zack Greinke and Gil Meche retired.

"I'm not worried that it's too low," Royals general manager Dayton Moore said. "I look at it as something that gives us tremendous flexibility going forward as an organization to be competitive as we negotiate for players."

The Yankees, as usual, had the top payroll but dropped to \$201.7 million from \$206.3 million at the start of last season.

Philadelphia was second at \$173 million following the offseason signing of Cliff Lee. The Phillies began last year fourth at \$141.9 million but have been given a financial boost by 123 consecutive home sellouts during the regular season.

"We wouldn't be here if we didn't have the fans supporting us," general manager Ruben Amaro Jr. said. "It's really plain and simple: We don't sell out games, we don't give ourselves a chance to be even in this stratosphere."

Yankees first baseman Mark Teixeira isn't bothered by competition at the top of the spending list.

"It's great for baseball anytime you get teams willing to go out there and improve their team," he said.

Boston is third on the salary list at \$161.4 million, followed by the Los Angeles Angels (\$139 million), the Chicago White Sox (\$129.3 million), the Chicago Cubs (\$125.5 million) and the New York Mets (\$120 million).

The totals don't include salaries owed to released players — Carlos Silva (\$11.5 million for the Cubs) and Oliver Perez (\$12 million) and Luis Castillo (\$6.25 million) for the Mets. The World Series champion San Francisco Giants are eighth at \$118.2 million, up from \$97.8 million. The American League champion Texas Rangers rose to 13th at \$92.3 million from \$55.3 million.

"Obviously I don't make the financial decisions, but as a manager you certainly appreciate how ownership stepped



New York Yankees starting pitcher CC Sabathia squats so third baseman Alex Rodriguez can throw out Detroit Tigers Victor Martinez at first in their opening day baseball game at Yankee Stadium on Thursday, March 31, 2011 in New York.

Associated Press

up and kept the team intact after a special year to try to give us a chance to do this again," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. "I've been on the other end and seen clubs disman-

tled. It's frustrating."

Tampa Bay, the 2008 American League champion, dropped from 21st at \$71.9 million to 29th at \$41.9 million, after shedding Carl Crawford, Carlos Pena, Matt Garza and Rafael Soriano.

Cleveland fell from \$61.2 million to \$49.2 million.

Pittsburgh's payroll went up from an MLB-low \$35 million to 27th at \$46 million. San Diego's increased from \$37.8 million to \$45.9 million. □

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NHL Roundup

Porter leads Blues over Red Wings in rout

DETROIT (AP) — Chris Porter and Cam Janssen scored for the first time this season and Jaroslav Halak made 41 saves as the St. Louis Blues routed the Detroit Red Wings 10-3 in the NHL on Wednesday.

Porter had two goals and Janssen and seven other St. Louis players each had one.

The Red Wings gave up eight goals in the first two periods of a game for the first time since 1986 and 10 in a game for the first time since 1993.

Goalie Joey MacDonald, playing for the injured Jimmy Howard, left the game after giving up five goals midway through the second period. He returned in the third after Thomas McCollum allowed three goals on eight shots.

Mike Modano, Todd Bertuzzi and Henrik Zetterberg scored for Detroit.

In Calgary, Alberta, Ray Emery made 23 saves and Corey Perry scored twice as Anaheim beat Calgary, dealing a blow to the Flames' slim playoff chances.

Emery, signed in early February after recovering from a hip injury that required surgery last April, improved to 6-0-0 for the surging Ducks, who have won seven of their last eight games.

Anaheim jumped from seventh to sixth place in the Western Conference standings, six points ahead of ninth-place Calgary and Dallas. Calgary remained three points behind Chicago for the final playoff

spot.

Perry scored his 45th and 46th goals of the season to break a tie with Tampa Bay's Steven Stamkos for the NHL lead.

Sabres 1, Rangers 0

In Buffalo, New York, Jhonas Enroth stopped 23 shots for his first career shutout as Buffalo defeated the New York Rangers.

Tim Connolly scored 5:28 into the second period to help the Sabres move into a tie with the Rangers for seventh place in the Eastern Conference standings with 10 days left in the season.

The Rangers lost in regulation for just the first time in eight games (6-1-1), but they've scored just three goals in their past four games, including a pair of 1-0 shutout victories.

The Sabres improved to 5-1-1 in their past seven games.

Hurricanes 6, Canadiens 2

In Raleigh, North Carolina, Jeff Skinner had two goals and an assist, Jamie McBain scored twice and Cam Ward made 38 saves for Carolina.

Cory Stillman added a goal and an assist and Joni Pitkanen had a goal for the ninth-place Hurricanes, who are three points behind Buffalo and the New York Rangers in the race for one of the eight Eastern Conference playoff spots.

Mike Cammalleri and P.K. Subban scored power-play goals for Montreal, which lost for the fifth time in seven games.

Carolina has won six of its last eight.



St. Louis Blues' BJ Crombeen, left, drives in to score their fifth goal with Andy McDonald (10) during the second period of an NHL hockey game against the Detroit Red Wings, Wednesday, March 30, 2011, in Detroit.

Associated Press

Devils 3, Islanders 2

At Newark, New Jersey, Andy Greene scored with 4:56 left to lead New Jersey past the New York Islanders.

Frans Nielsen scored a pair of goals 4:06 apart in the third period to bring the Islanders even at 2-all. But then Greene took a pass from Patrik Elias, glided into the left circle and slapped a shot over Rick DiPietro's left pad.

Ilya Kovalchuk and Jacob Josefson also scored for New Jersey.

In other NHL games it was Buffalo 1, N.Y. Rangers 0; New Jersey 3, N.Y. Islanders 2; Carolina 6, Montreal 2; St. Louis 10, Detroit 3; and Anaheim 4, Calgary 2. □

Boxing trainer Gil Clancy dies at 88

LYNBROOK, New York (AP) — Trainer Gil Clancy, who helped lead Emile Griffith to world welterweight and middleweight titles in the 1960s, has died. He was 88.

Clancy died early Thursday at an assisted living facility on Long Island, according to his daughter, Patricia Houlahan.

Born in Rockaway Beach, Queens, Clancy boxed in university and in the Army. He earned a master's degree in teaching at New York Uni-

versity and paid tuition by training fighters. Eventually, he rose to prominence as a corner man.

Clancy also worked with Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, George Foreman, Oscar De La Hoya and Ken Buchanan. But he's best known for his 20-year association with Griffith.

Clancy is survived by five children, 18 grandchildren, and 19 great grandchildren. His wife, Nancy, died 16 months ago. □



New York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony (7) goes to the up against New Jersey Nets' Brook Lopez (11) during the first half of NBA basketball game, Wednesday, March 30, 2011, at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Associated Press

NBA ROUNDUP

Continued from Page B1

Wall was kicked out of the game after a skirmish with Miami center Zydrunas Ilgauskas with 8:48 left in the first half and Washington leading 37-36. Ilgauskas and Miami reserve Juwan Howard were also ejected from the game.

Bulls 108, Timberwolves 91 In Minneapolis, Derrick Rose had 23 points and 10 assists in three quarters to help Chicago remain 2½ games ahead of

Boston and Miami in the race for the top seed in the Eastern Conference.

Carlos Boozer added 24 points and 14 rebounds for the Bulls, who recorded 31 assists on 41 field goals.

Kevin Love had 16 points and nine rebounds, but was limited to 27 minutes in his first game back with the Timberwolves after injuring his groin. Minnesota lost its eighth straight game.

Hawks 85, Magic 82

In Atlanta, Joe Johnson's floating one-hander in the lane put Atlanta ahead with 55.4 seconds remaining and Orlando's Jameer Nelson missed two chances to tie it.

Josh Smith led the Hawks with 26 points, and Johnson added 18.

In other NBA games it was Atlanta 85, Orlando 82; Charlotte 98, Cleveland 97; Indiana 111, Detroit 101; Milwaukee 104, Toronto 98; Philadelphia 108, Houston 97; Miami 123, Washington 107; New York 120, New Jersey 116; Memphis 110, Golden State 91; Chicago 108, Minnesota 91; New Orleans 95, Portland 91; Denver 104, Sacramento 90; Oklahoma City 116, Phoenix 98; and Dallas 106, L.A. Clippers 100. □

'Star Wars' creator Lucas says 3-D will rule films

DAVID GERMAIN

AP Movie Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — "Star Wars" creator George Lucas predicts 3-D filmmaking eventually will take over at the movies the way color replaced black and white.

But Lucas and fellow technology pioneers James Cameron, the maker of "Avatar," and DreamWorks Animation boss Jeffrey Katzenberg said Wednesday that digital filmmaking is only in its infancy and will bring vast improvements to how movies are made and seen.

Digital technology in general is revolutionizing filmmaking the way sound did in the 1920s, Lucas said. The new digital 3-D craze has had hits and misses but should one day become the big-screen standard over 2-D presentation, he said.

"So now when you're watching a movie and it's not in 3-D, it's like watching in black and white," Lucas told a crowd of theater owners at their CinemaCon convention. "It's a better way of looking at a film. ... I totally believe now that 3-D will completely take over just like color did."

Lucas spoke at a digital-film panel alongside Cameron and Katzenberg. The hour-long discussion touched on new filmmaking tools, enhancements to theater sound, and how badly presented 3-D movies can sour audiences on digital 3-D films in general.

Such bad 3-D experiences generally have resulted when studios took movies shot in only two dimensions and did hasty conversions to give them the illusion of depth so they could charge the extra few dollars that 3-D tickets cost.

"You disappoint our audiences once, OK, great we fooled them. Do it twice, shame on us," said Katzenberg, who decided years ago that all DreamWorks Animation movies, such as last year's "How to Train Your Dragon" and this summer's "Kung Fu Panda 2," would be in 3-D.

Cameron, who shot "Avatar" in 3-D and plans to do its two sequels that way also, is converting his blockbuster "Ti-

tanic" to 3-D for release next year. Lucas is doing the same with all six of his "Star Wars" films.

Done properly, 2-D movies converted to 3-D can look fantastic, Cameron and Lucas said.

Lucas drew hearty applause several times from theater owners when he told them that home systems or portable video devices will never replace the moviehouse as the best place to see films.

"We have our third generation now of kids who are under 12 years old who have never seen 'Star Wars' on the big screen," Lucas said. "And I am betting a lot of people will go see a movie that they have seen on television a million times and they have the video at home, and they will go and see it because they want to see it in the theater in a social experience."

Cameron waited for years to



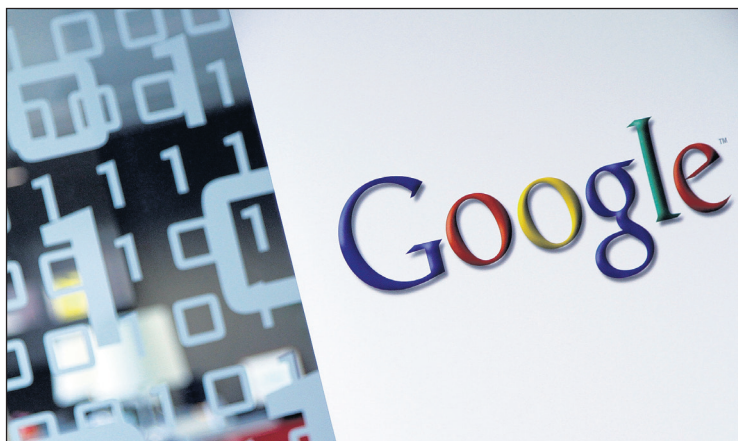
James Cameron, left, speaks about digital filmmaking as George Lucas, center, and Jeffrey Katzenberg look on during a panel discussion at the CinemaCon conference Wednesday, March 30, 2011, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

make "Avatar" until digital technology had caught up to the ideas in his head for the sci-fi epic about a struggle between greedy humans and no-

ble aliens on a distant world. Now that the tools are there, filmmakers are confined only by their imaginations, Cameron said.

"We're really at a point where if we can imagine it, we can create it," Cameron said. "There are no limitations now." □



In this March 23, 2010 file photo, the Google logo is seen at the Google headquarters in Brussels.

Associated Press

GABRIELE STEINHAUSER

AP Business Writer

BRUSSELS (AP) — Microsoft Corp. on Thursday threw its weight behind an existing probe by European Union authorities into whether rival Google Inc. is unfairly thwarting competition in the online search market.

Microsoft's General Counsel Brad Smith said the company is filing its own complaint against Google with the European Commission, citing concern over "a broadening pattern of conduct aimed at stopping anyone else from creating a competitive alternative."

A spokeswoman for the EU's Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia said the Commission had taken note of Microsoft's complaint and will give Google the opportunity to tell its side of the story.

The Commission opened a formal investigation into Google's behavior last November, following complaints from several smaller Web companies that the search giant was burying them in its results and engaging in other anticompetitive practices.

Google has long pointed to Microsoft's involvement in the probe, since one of the original complainants, online-shopping site Ciao, is owned by Microsoft's search engine Bing. Another company involved in the case, U.K.-based price-comparison

Microsoft throws weight behind EU's Google probe

site Foundem, is a member of a Microsoft-sponsored technology trade organization.

Al Verney, a Brussels-based spokesman for Google, said the company wasn't surprised by Microsoft's move since one of their subsidiaries was one of the original complainants.

"For our part, we continue to discuss the case with the European Commission and we're happy to explain to anyone how our business works," Verney said.

Nevertheless, Microsoft's direct complaint adds weight to the case, since it lists several specific examples of alleged anticompetitive practices by Google involving some of the search engine's pet projects.

Smith claims that Google "put in place a growing number of technical measures to restrict competing search engines from properly accessing" its YouTube video-streaming site.

"Without proper access to YouTube, Bing and other search engines cannot stand with Google on an equal footing in returning search results with links to YouTube videos and that, of course, drives more users away from competitors and to Google," he wrote in a blog post.

Smith also said that Google blocked Microsoft's Windows Phones "from operating properly with YouTube," but offers better services to its own Android phones and iPhones, whose producer Apple Inc. does not own a search engine.

With Bing, Microsoft is one of Google's biggest direct rivals. It also has a partnership deal with the other big search engine, Yahoo! Inc.

Yet neither Bing nor Yahoo have found a way of closing in on Google, which processes two out of three online searches in the U.S. In Europe, the Mountain View, Calif., -based company controls more than 90 percent of the search market. The two companies also compete in other areas, such as cloud computing — where they offer remote server space and software processing to clients. □



In this Dec. 18, 2009 file photo, the entrance to the General Motors Powertrain plant in Tonawanda, N.Y., is shown. General Motors Co. is halting some production at its Buffalo, N.Y., engine plant because of a slowdown in parts from Japan. *Associated Press*

Delphi buys back ownership stakes from GM and U.S.

DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Auto Writer
DETROIT (AP) — Auto parts supplier Delphi Automotive LLP said Thursday it is buying back ownership stakes from General Motors Co. and the federal government for \$4.4 billion, a move that strengthens the company's balance sheet ahead of a potential public offering.

Delphi will pay \$3.8 billion for shares owned by GM and \$594 million for shares owned by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. Delphi is using cash as well as a \$3 billion credit facility for the purchase.

"These transactions represent an important step in positioning Delphi to continue to increase shareholder value," Delphi President and CEO Rodney O'Neal said in a statement.

The deal also helps GM boost its first-quarter earnings, which will be critical for the automaker as it continues to woo investors after its own public offering in November.

GM said it will book a gain of \$1.6 billion from the sale. It paid \$1.7 billion for the stake in Delphi in 2009, but that was revalued at \$2 billion at the end of last year.

GM also noted that it sold its preferred stock in Ally Financial for \$1 billion earlier this month, for a first-quarter gain of \$300 million.

"We are systematically delivering on our commitment to strengthen and simplify our balance sheet," said Dan Ammann, who will become GM's senior vice president and chief financial officer Friday.

Delphi is GM's former parts division. It was spun off from GM in 1999 and went into bankruptcy protection in 2005. Delphi was acquired by a group of private investors in 2009. The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. obtained its interest as a partial settlement of its claims when Delphi terminated its pension plans in bankruptcy court.

The PBGC has been paying pension benefits to 70,000 Delphi workers and retirees since 2009.

The agency said it doesn't yet know how Thursday's action will affect retiree benefits but will inform Delphi retirees when its calculations are complete.

The PBGC has taken responsibility for \$6.1 billion in pension payments from Delphi, making it one of the largest financial losses in the agency's 36-year history. □



Dow has best start to the year since 1999

FRANCESCA LEVY
MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writers
NEW YORK (AP) — The Dow Jones industrial average closed its best start to the year since 1999 Thursday, rising 6.4 percent in the first three months. The index of 30 large companies gained 742 points in that stretch. Measured against other first quarters, that's the largest point gain since 1998 and the second best on record. Stocks ended the day mixed as the price of oil jumped to a 30-month high. Slightly disappointing reports on unemployment claims and factory orders also weighed on the market.

The first-quarter gains were anything but an easy ride. Up-risings in the Arab world, a jump in oil prices along with the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear crisis in Japan led to many deep one-day falls.

"This is a market that has been defined by resilience in the face of uncertainty," said Andrew Goldberg, a market



Tim Brosnan, left, with Major League Baseball, former major league pitcher Al Leiter, center, and Mark Wright, with Budweiser, ring the opening bell of the New York Stock Exchange in observance of baseball's opening day, Thursday, March 31, 2011.

strategist at JP Morgan Funds.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 30.88 points, or 0.3 percent, to 12,319.73. That's just 72 points shy of its Feb. 18 high for the year. The Standard & Poor's 500 fell 2.43, or 0.2 percent, to 1,325.83. The Nasdaq composite rose 4.28, or 0.2 percent, to 2,781.07. The S&P 500 rose 5.4 percent during the first quarter, the Nasdaq 4.8 percent.

The market turned wildly volatile in March. In the third week, the Dow moved by more than 100 points four straight days. On March 16, fears that Japan's nuclear crisis would get even worse turned all three major indexes negative for the year. The very next day a jump in manufacturing and a drop in unemployment claims helped bring them back.

Stocks swung between small gains

and losses Thursday as the price of oil surged to settle at \$106.72 a barrel. Troops loyal to Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi retook control of the key oil port of Ras Lanouf from rebel forces. The power shift threatens the quick restart of oil exports promised by a rebel victory.

Oil prices have jumped \$20 since the Libyan uprising began in February. Higher oil prices can pinch spending by forcing consumers to pay more for gasoline and could cut into economic growth.

There were also slightly disappointing reports on new unemployment claims and factory orders. The Labor Department said fewer people applied for unemployment benefits last week, signaling that companies may be slowing layoffs. The number of new claims fell by 6,000 to 388,000. Analysts

had expected a larger drop.

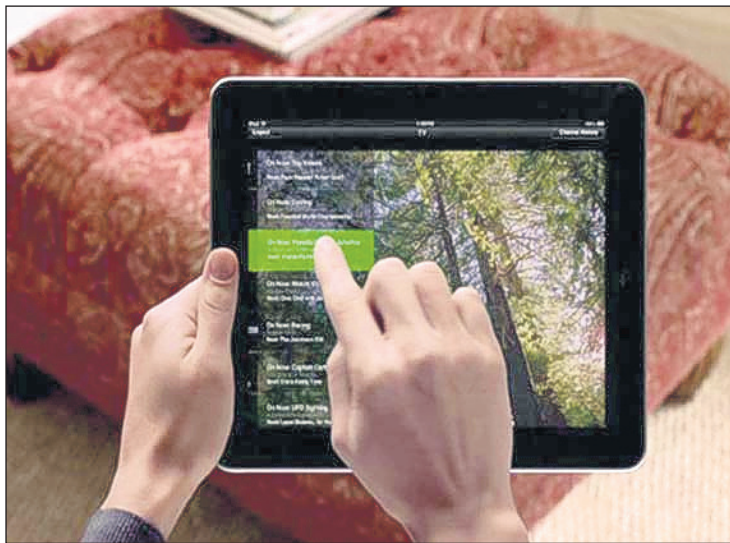
The news comes a day before the Labor Department's monthly employment report. The unemployment rate is expected to remain unchanged at 8.9 percent.

Banks in Ireland were also under pressure. The country's central bank said Thursday that four of its cash-strapped banks need another €24 billion in coming months to show that they won't collapse in the face of future crises. Ireland has already put €46 billion into the country's banks since 2009. The four banks will need to draw on an emergency credit line from the European Union and the International Monetary Fund. □

Time Warner Cable drops channels from iPad app

JOELLE TESSLER
AP Technology Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — Time Warner Cable Inc. will drop a dozen cable channels from its iPad app after three big programmers complained that the company does not have the rights to distribute their content on the popular tablet computer.

Time Warner Cable's decision comes after News Corp.'s Fox Cable Networks, Viacom Inc. and Discovery Communications Inc. asked the cable company to pull their programming from its iPad app — arguing that the app was violating their programming contracts.



In this product image provided by Times Warner Cable Inc., the Times Warner Cable app is displayed on an iPad. Time Warner Cable is launching the first iPad application from a cable or satellite company that plays live TV.

The media companies want to extract more money from cable companies to distribute their programming on devices other than just television sets. But Time Warner maintains that it already has the rights to do that under its existing con-

tracts.

Time Warner launched its app for Apple Inc.'s iPad, which streams live television, earlier this month.

The channels being dropped are: Animal Planet, Black Entertainment Television, Coun-

try Music Television, Comedy Central, Discovery Channel, FX, MTV, National Geographic, Nickelodeon, Spike, TLC and VH1. That leaves the app with just 20 channels, although Time Warner said it will add more overnight. □

Oil climbs to highest since 2008 on Libya conflict



A motorist leaves an Indian reservation where the price of gas is less expensive than surrounding areas at \$3.53 per gallon at Western Door gas station on the Tonawanda Indian Reservation in New York, Thursday, March 31, 2011. The price of oil rose to a 30-month high on Thursday as fighters loyal to Moammar Gadhafi pushed back rebels from key areas in eastern Libya.

NEW YORK (AP) — The price of oil rose to a 30-month high on Thursday as fighters loyal to Moammar Gadhafi pushed back rebels from key areas in eastern Libya. Benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude rose \$2.45, more than 2 percent, to settle at \$106.72 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. At one point it hit \$106.83,

the highest it's been since September, 2008. In London, Brent crude rose \$2.25 to settle at \$117.20 per barrel.

Battles between Gadhafi's troops and rebels have saw-sawed back and forth in Libyan ports and towns since mid-February, with the price of oil rising more than \$20 a barrel since then. Energy consultants Cameron Hanover said

Associated Press

In Australia

Oprah moves to smooth blunder



US talk show star Oprah Winfrey

SYDNEY — US talk-show queen Oprah Winfrey on Thursday moved to downplay comments in a new documentary-style show suggesting her high-profile tour of Australia in December was not a smooth ride. In Season 25: Oprah Behind the Scenes, Winfrey revealed concerns about the large crowds in Melbourne and on Queensland's Hamilton Is-

land and that she was worried about flies and heat at Uluru, or Ayers Rock. She was also unsure how to pronounce Prime Minister Julia Gillard's name and decided to break it into two words - "gill" and "lard" so she could pronounce it properly when they met for a walk. After the comments ran in Australian newspapers, she issued a statement, insisting

she loved every minute of her visit.

"When I say I love Australia, I mean what I say.

I LOVE AUSTRALIA," she said.

"It was one of the most life changing, mind expanding, once in a lifetime extraordinary experiences for all of us, and I would never want any of my comments taken out of context to make it seem otherwise.

"I have so many great memories. The Great Barrier Reef was breathtaking, Sydney was spectacular, and I was mesmerized by Uluru and so glad I went there.

"I was overwhelmed by the response of the people of Melbourne and was honored to meet the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, and to feel the welcoming energy of 10,000 people in Federation Square," she added.

"I can't wait to come back." □

Betty White will host new NBC reality show

By **LYNN ELBER**
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The unstoppable Betty White is taking on reality TV with a hidden-camera show that turns senior citizens into merry pranksters. NBC has ordered 12 episodes of "Betty White's Off Their Rockers," the working title for a series based on a hit Belgian program that has been produced in other European countries and South Korea. "People have been telling me that I'm 'off my rocker' for years — now I can prove it," White joked in a statement Thursday. The reality show follows seven seniors who band together to play pranks on younger people, with White helping conspire to put one over on "the unsuspecting youth of America," said NBC and Universal Media Studios executive Paul Telegdy.



Betty White

White, 89, has a track record at NBC. She starred in the network's sitcom "The Golden Girls" for seven seasons and won an Emmy last year as host of "Saturday Night Live."

The actress also stars in the TV Land sitcom "Hot in Cleveland," which has been renewed for a third season, and has a book, "If You Ask Me (And Of Course You Won't)," set for release in May. □

In Argentina

Singer Michael Buble weds TV star Luisana Lopilato



Canadian pop star Michael Buble

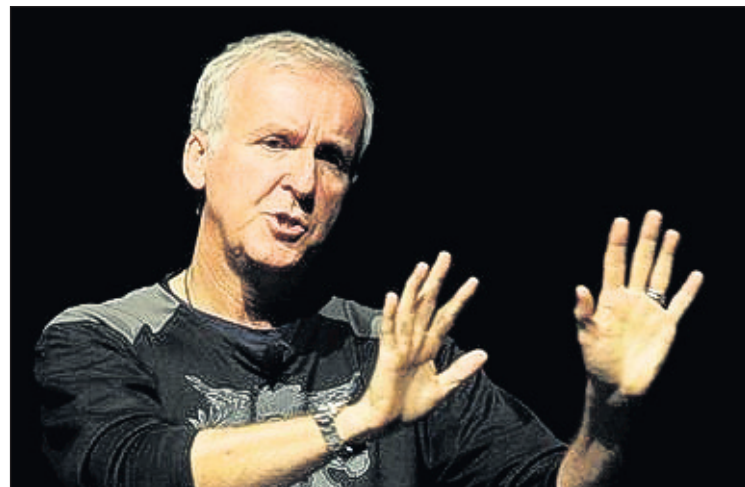
By **VICENTE L. PANETTA**
Associated Press
BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Canadian pop star Michael Buble married Argentine TV actress Luisana Lopilato in a civil ceremony on Thursday. The Grammy-winning singer of "Crazy Love" and his Argentine sweetheart posed for a mob of fans after tying

the knot at a civil registry in downtown Buenos Aires. She wore a lilac chiffon dress with silver high heels and Buble wore a sharp gray suit as he leaned down for a smooch. Then Lopilato, 23, tossed a bouquet of purple orchids into the crowd as some fans threw rice and red rose petals and a young woman shouted "I love you Michael!" Buble, 35, won his Grammy last month for traditional pop vocal album, and is one of North America's top-grossing concert entertainers. Lopilato made her name as a model and in Argentine sitcoms and soap operas, including "Rebel Way," "Little Girls," "Married With Children" and "Pirate Soul." The couple plan a full ceremony with 300 guests next month at a mansion outside Buenos Aires, and another wedding in Vancouver in April. They have homes in Canada, Los Angeles and Buenos Aires province. □

Cameron aims to enrich 'Avatar 2' images

By **DAVID GERMAIN**
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — James Cameron plans another innovation for his next "Avatar" installment: shooting at double or more the film speed that has been Hollywood's standard since the 1920s, a move he says will greatly improve 3-D images. Cameron, whose 2009 sci-fi blockbuster raised the bar for digital imagery and put the 3-D craze on the fast track, said Thursday that "Avatar 2" would be shot at 48 or 60 frames a second to reduce an effect called "strobing" that can blur moving images, particularly those in 3-D. For more than 80 years, the norm has been 24 frames a second. In a demonstration for theater owners at their CinemaCon convention, Cameron played 3-D footage he recently shot at 24, 48 and 60 frames a second to show the better quality of high-speed filming. The footage of medieval dinner and fight sequences shot at 48 and 60 frames a second were noticeably superior. At 24 frames, blurriness was



Filmmaker James Cameron

very evident when the camera panned or dollied along the dinner table and when two knights duelled with swords. The fuzzy images greatly diminished at 48 frames and virtually vanished at 60 frames. "I was stunned when I saw it, at how clear and crisp it was," Cameron said. "If 3-D is like looking at reality through a window, we've taken the glass out of the window." New digital projectors rapidly being installed in theaters can handle the higher frame speeds with no more than a software upgrade, said Cameron, who wants faster filming rates to become the stan-

dard for 2-D and 3-D movies. While 3-D has been a blessing for studios and theaters that charge a few extra dollars for the added dimension, many movie fans complain about eyestrain from blurry 3-D images. Faster film and projection speeds will help eliminate that problem, Cameron said. "Avatar" is the biggest modern blockbuster, with \$2.8 billion in theatrical revenues worldwide. Cameron has no definite timetable for his two planned "Avatar" sequels, but the second film in the franchise still is years away from theaters. □

Billy Joel cancels his memoir

By NEKESA MUMBI
Associated Press

NEW YORK – The Piano Man is deciding to stay silent: Billy Joel is canceling his planned memoir.

“The Book of Joel” was scheduled for publication in June. The HarperCollins book was billed as an “emotional ride” that would detail the music legend’s failed marriages, including his union with Christie Brinkley, as well as his battles with substance abuse.

Earlier this month, HarperCollins revealed the cover photograph for the book, and Joel’s editor promised it would contain details “he has never revealed before.”

But in a statement to The Associated Press on Thursday, Joel said he had changed his mind.

“It took working on writing a book to make me realize that



Billy Joel

I’m not all that interested in talking about the past, and that the best expression of my life and its ups and downs has been and remains my music,” he said.

HarperCollins confirmed Thursday that the deal had been canceled. Spokeswoman Tina Andreadis said Joel had turned in a finished manuscript, but that no copies had been printed. The publisher had planned a first printing of

250,000 copies.

Joel isn’t the first musician to cancel a book.

Mick Jagger backed out of a deal in the early 1980s, saying he couldn’t remember anything of interest. Sean “P. Diddy” Combs never turned in a memoir that he was supposed to write for Random House Inc. and ended up being sued in 2005 for money the publisher claimed he owed.

The 61-year-old Joel is considered one of music’s all-time greats: He’s a Rock and Roll Hall of Famer who has sold millions with hits including “Uptown Girl,” “New York State of Mind” and “Just the Way You Are,” and his deal was widely believed to be worth seven figures.

Other rock stars have had major success with their memoirs, including Eric Clapton and more recently, Keith Richards. □

I’ll be BACK! And he is!

Arnie returns as cartoon Governator



Arnold Schwarzenegger

LOS ANGELES— Three months after standing down as California governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger is to return as a cartoon superhero version of himself, The Governator, he announced this week.

The former champion bodybuilder turned Hollywood star catchphrase “I’ll be Back” has teamed up with Marvel comics founder Stan Lee to create the character which will star in an animated TV show and comic book.

More details will be announced next week, but Schwarzenegger and Lee revealed the plans to Entertainment Weekly, which pub-

lished more details on its online version Thursday.

“The Governator is very simple. It takes my entire career basically, if it is bodybuilding, if it is action movies, if it is the governorship,” the famously Austrian-accented 63-year-old told the magazine.

“It takes all those things and combines it into one. That guy is designed to fight crime, to fight natural disasters, this guy will be jumping into action,” he added in a video clip on the weekly’s website.

The animated TV show and comic book won’t be out until next year, but Lee co-creator of Spider Man and a raft of other comic superheroes, re-

vealed that it will be based on Schwarzenegger personally.

“The Governator is going to be a great superhero, but he’ll also be Arnold Schwarzenegger,” he said.

“We’re using all the personal elements of Arnold’s life. We’re using his wife. We’re using his kids. We’re using the fact that he used to be governor.

“Only after he leaves the governor’s office, Arnold decides to become a crime fighter and builds a secret high-tech crime-fighting center under his house in Brentwood,” he added.

Schwarzenegger came to the United States as a penniless 21-year-old in 1968, but became a millionaire and won the Mr. Universe title four more times, and then shrugged off barbs about his thick accent as he turned to acting.

Joining Hollywood’s royalty, his ominous “Terminator” catchphrases “I’ll be back,” and “Hasta la vista, baby” have now entered the English lexicon and he still uses them frequently as a politician. □

Eric Church cuts path to ACM win

By CHRIS TALBOTT
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The decisions of country music maverick Eric Church usually spark strong reactions. Release a single to radio about teen pregnancy? You can’t do that!

Put out another about smoking marijuana? Are you crazy?

“Everybody told us we’d lost our minds,” Church said. “And maybe we had, you know? But I liked the fact that it had never been done, it had never been said. I’m not interested in being one of those artists that makes the same music and does the same thing that everybody else has done.

I would rather cross some boundaries and kick down some doors.”

That philosophy has led Church, 33, back from what some thought was career suicide and to a new kind of popularity that he might not have achieved had he continued down the path he started on five years ago. Church has already won the Academy of Country Music’s top new solo vocalist award this year and is up for the overall top new artist award against The Band Perry during Sunday’s show in Las Vegas.

Not many would have predicted this outcome after Church, hot off the release of his debut, was fired from the Rascal Flatts tour in 2006 at Madison



Country singer Eric Church

Square Garden, no less for playing too long and too loud. At the time, it seemed like a quick end of a promising career to most Music Row observers. He gave up a chance to play in front of thousands and started taking gigs where only a few dozen might show up.

“We started going back and playing clubs, playing honky-tonks,” Church said. “We also played heavy metal bars as a country band. Sometimes there were 50 people there, but those 50 people, they were in to it. They were cheering like there were 10,000. I could just see enough of a spark then that if we kept doing what we were doing, even if nobody else would’ve believed it and everybody else told me I was crazy, I knew that eventually that would turn into something.” □

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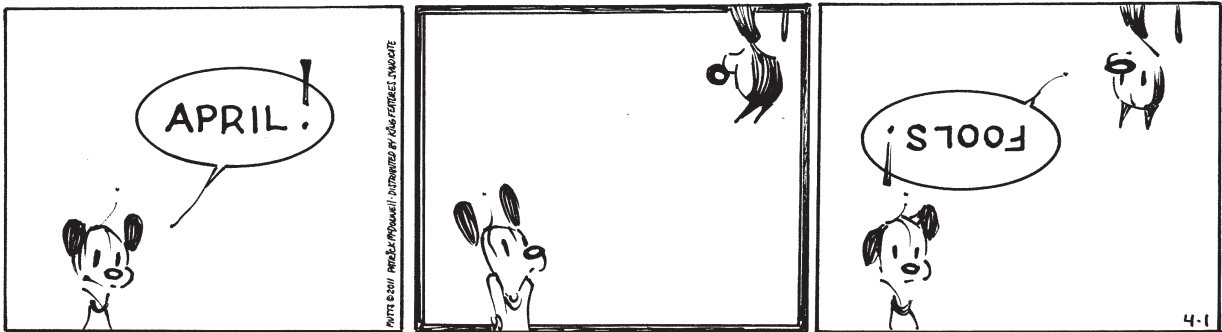
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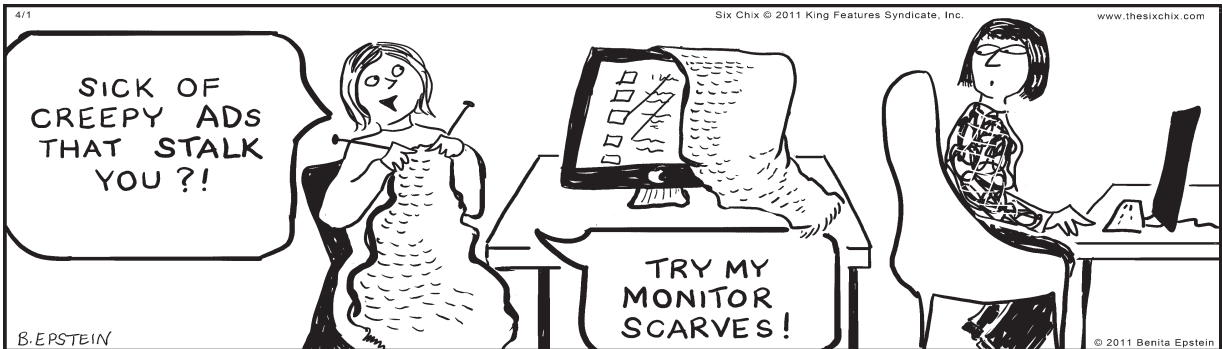
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Difficulty Level ★★★★★

4/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

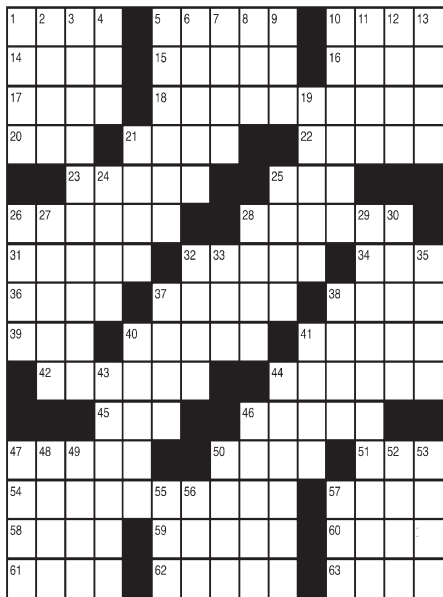
3	6	1	2	7	5	4	9	8
2	9	4	1	8	6	7	3	5
8	5	7	3	9	4	6	2	1
9	2	8	6	3	7	1	5	4
1	4	6	5	2	8	3	7	9
7	3	5	9	4	1	2	8	6
5	1	2	8	6	3	9	4	7
6	7	3	4	5	9	8	1	2
4	8	9	7	1	2	5	6	3

ACROSS

- Spilled the beans
- Competitor
- Resound
- Notion
- Wipe away
- Exhibit
- Stringy; sinewy
- In ___ of; holding
- Make a blunder
- ___ away; left
- ___ over; delivers
- Black piano key wood
- Inlet of the sea
- Chaperone
- Doused
- Plant pest
- Porterhouse or T-bone
- Up to now
- Old TV knob
- Pseudonym
- One of Jacob's twelve sons
- ...P, Q, R, ...
- Get on one's feet
- Motherless calf
- Uppity
- Questions intensely
- "No __, Jose!"
- Amphitheater
- Bookcase piece
- Recognized
- Jacuzzi
- San Diego's state
- Consumer
- Charitable donation
- Cock's perch
- Chair or pew
- "Nonsense!"
- Memory units of a computer
- Inquires

DOWN

- Grow weary
- Fragrance
- Irish elf
- Dennis or Doris



4/1/11

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

PRY	SIDED	SWAK
HAUL	UTILE	URGE
ISLE	LARKS	BEEN
HEARTLESS	UNDO	
TORY	EAR	
HIGHLY	CORNBALL	
AGREE	MARTY	LOO
BLUR	FETES	PEON
ION	FEATS	LAPSE
TOTALITY	WITHER	
MUG	SIRE	
ALGA	NOMINALLY	
SUEZ	IVIED	LEAD
PANE	NERVE	ANNA
SUES	GREED	SKY

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4/1/11

- Shoelace problem
- Mountaintop
- ___ and crafts
- Sphere
- Rogers or Clark
- Canada's neighbor: abbr.

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Wk 8 \$12,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 9 \$8,500 1BR Garden*
Wk 9 \$12,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 10, \$6,500 1BR Garden
Wk 10, \$9,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 14, \$13,000 2BR Pool*
Wk 24 \$1,860 Studio
Wk 19, 3,15 1BR Garden
Wk 20, \$4,200 1BR Pool
Wk 31 \$1,920 1BR
(Even Yr.)
Wk 32 \$7,200 2BR Pool
Wk 38 \$6,600 2BR Pool
Wk 42 \$4,500 1BR Pool
Wk 45 \$11,000 2 BR Pool*

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Studio wk 13 Room 119 Pool/View \$4000

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A black and white photograph of five wolves standing in a snowy, open landscape. The wolves are of varying shades of gray and white, and they are looking in different directions. Long shadows are cast on the snow.

Scientists have studied their predator-prey relationship with the island's moose for more than a half-century. □

Estados Unidos

Promueven oleducto Canadá para reemplazar petróleo Venezuela

ESTADOS UNIDO (AP) - El representante republicano Connie Mack exhortó al ejecutivo estadounidense a aprobar la construcción de un oleoducto de Canadá al Golfo de México y que forzaría al presidente venezolano Hugo Chávez a darse cuenta que “Estados Unidos no está sujeto a financiar por completo su régimen indefinidamente”. Mack dijo el jueves al instalar una audiencia que esta dependencia petrolera “mantiene como rehén al departamento de Estado cuando debería estar pidiendo el fin del régimen de Chávez por sus numerosas violaciones a los derechos humanos y apoyo al terrorismo”. Venezuela actualmente suministra el 10% del petróleo consumido por Estados Unidos, precisó Mack. “Necesitamos concentrarnos inmediatamente en reemplazar el petróleo extranjero de tiranos

como Chávez con aliados confiables y estables como Canadá”, dijo el presidente del subcomité para el hemisferio occidental del comité de relaciones exteriores de la cámara baja, refiriéndose al proyecto Keystone XL.

La empresa canadiense TransCanada presentó al Departamento de Estado a fines del 2008 el proyecto Keystone XL, que busca transportar petróleo desde Hardisty, Alberta en Canadá, hasta el Golfo de México atravesando los estados de Montana, Dakota del Sur, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma y Texas. Transportaría 1,5 millones de barriles diarios.

El Departamento de Estado planea anunciar a fines de marzo si son necesarios estudios adicionales de impacto ambiental, tal como solicitó este mes una coalición de organizaciones ambientales.

Mack argumentó que las emisiones vinculadas a la extracción y refinación del crudo canadiense “son menores y mejor reguladas que las emisiones relacionadas a Venezuela, Arabia Saudita, Nigeria y México, los principales suplidores petroleros de Estados Unidos aparte de Canadá”.

TransCanada obtuvo en 2008 la aprobación de la primera etapa del proyecto, que desde junio transporta petróleo desde Saskatchewan y Manitoba hasta las Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, Illinois y Misuri.

Shawn Howard, portavoz de TransCanada, dijo que la aprobación para la primera etapa del proyecto tardó 22 meses, y que Keystone XL lleva 27 meses en evaluación, lo cual ha elevado el costo del proyecto a 13.000 millones de dólares desde los 1.000 millones previstos originalmente. □

Dominicana revisa medicamento bajo alerta en EEUU

REPUBLICA DOMINICANA (AP) - Las autoridades sanitarias de República Dominicana sometieron el jueves a revisión una solución vitamínica producida por un laboratorio local y que el gobierno de Estados Unidos considera peligroso para la salud. El Consejo Nacional de Retiro y Restricción de Medicamentos evaluará desde la vigencia del registro sanitario de la solución vitamínica hasta su composición y el mantenimiento de su calidad, informó el lunes a la AP el vocero del ministerio de Salud Luis García.

Precisó que las autoridades sanitarias recibieron la víspera el alerta de la Administración Federal de Alimentos y Medicamentos de Estados Unidos (FDA, por su sigla en inglés) sobre el posible peligro de la

solución vitamínica Soladek.

Una vez que la Comisión concluya su investigación, el ministerio de Salud tomará decisiones sobre la comercialización de Soladek.

El medicamento es una solución de vitamina A y D usada popularmente en República Dominicana para aumentar las defensas. El vitamínico se vende en las farmacias sin necesidad de prescripción médica.

La FDA informó esta semana que Soladek, producida por el laboratorio dominicano Indo Pharma S. A., “podría contener niveles altos y peligrosos de vitaminas A y D”.

La institución exhortó a todos los consumidores del producto en Estados Unidos a dejar de usarlo.

La FDA detalló que además de que las muestras examinadas de Soladek contenían niveles de ambas vitaminas “mayores a las dosis diarias recomendadas”, la FDA también había recibido siete reportes sobre “graves problemas de salud en consumidores que usaron este producto”.

Aunque Soladek carece de registro sanitario en Estados Unidos, por lo que no puede ser comercializado en ese país, muchos viajeros dominicanos la llevan consigo, dada su popularidad.

La vicepresidenta ejecutiva de la empresa Juan Gassó Gassó C. por A., de la que forma parte Indo Pharma S. A., indicó a la AP que en su compañía la alerta de FDA “nos ha caído por sorpresa”.

Gassó detalló que Soladek, que en República Dominicana tiene registro sanitario por 10 años desde 2002, está elaborado con base en una “fórmula estándar” de vitaminas A y D y que nunca se han reportado problemas de salud vinculados a esa solución vitamínica. Adelantó que se comunicaría con representantes de la FDA y del ministerio dominicano de Salud para conocer con detalle el origen de la alerta. □

Chávez inicia visita a Bolivia



EL presidente de Venezuela, Hugo Chavez, arribó la madrugada del jueves a Cochabamba, Bolivia, en su penúltima etapa de su gira por países de Sudamérica. (AP Photo/Juan Karita)

BOLIVIA (AP) - El presidente venezolano Hugo Chávez afirmó que “el imperialismo ha entrado en su fase extrema de locura” en el conflicto libio, y dijo al llegar a Bolivia

el jueves que su visita oficial tiene como objetivo “fortalecer el eje Venezuela-Bolivia”.

Chávez arribó la madrugada del jueves, penúltima etapa

en su gira por países de Sudamérica. “El imperialismo ha entrado en su fase extrema de locura”, dijo a la prensa en referencia al conflicto libio y la intervención militar de fuerzas

de la OTAN.

Sobre su visita a Bolivia, afirmó que llegó “para fortalecer el eje Venezuela-Bolivia, núcleo de la alianza bolivariana”.

Chávez y el presidente boliviano Evo Morales se reunieron ayer mientras los ministros de los dos países avaluaron la agenda bilateral en ocho meses de trabajo para firmar en la tarde acuerdos “para fortalecer la relación bilateral”, anticipó el canciller venezolano Nicolás Maduro.

“Queremos consolidar una gran zona de paz en Latinoamérica, no queremos más guerras, queremos democracias verdaderas, no queremos dictaduras, no queremos más imperialismo”, sostuvo Chávez en el aeropuerto de Cochabamba, centro de Bolivia, escenario del encuentro presidencial.

El mandatario venezolano luego de Bolivia, visitará Colombia última etapa de su gira. Ya visitó Argentina y Uruguay. □

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